VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 1993 ONE DOLLAR

1993 Trout Guide Inside

Out on a Limb

It's trout season again. Ice-cold streams across the state soon will be packed with men, women, and children perched on the edges of banks and rocks, dangling corn, salmon eggs, and flashing spinners in front of freshly stocked trout.

So, too, will greed and bad manners push their way into our streams. People will lie, cheat, snag and hide their fish in order to carry home the most fish they can from a stream that has just received manna from heaven in the form of the Game Department's stocking trucks. The temptation to take advantage of such a miracle is just too great.

We spend over one million dollars a year raising trout to stock in Virginia's streams, and that's not counting the hundreds of hours we spend stocking the streams in the dead of winter and patrolling them throughout the season. We keep pouring dollars into it every year, providing recreation that too often tempts the devil in us all. Why?

Just about every year, Odell, an old friend of mine, calls me up to see if I can't get the trout stocking plan to him a few days early. You see, he and his retired buddy Otis go trout fishing every year. He and Otis pack up a camper and leave Chesterfield County for a few weeks at the end of March, which means they're usually gone for more than a month. Odell laughs about the cold water and ice they find in the mountains of southwest Virginia this time of year, and delights in telling how the world is frozen solid every morning when he opens his camper door. I'm sure he loves it best when it's sleeting or blowing snow. They catch fish, laugh with folks they haven't seen since last year, and make new friends with locals all over the Alleghenies. They have a grand time.

People plan vacations around the third Saturday in March. They ring our phones off the hook here at the Game Department, wanting to make sure the fish have been stocked where they're going. Of course, heaven forbid if they come back from the mountains empty-handed after we assured them that thousands of fish had been dumped into the stream they'd been fishing. It won't be pretty.

Trout fishing purists find the value of fishing in tying their own flies, in cherishing a bamboo rod, in matching hatches, in pursuing trout. If the truth be known, although they might fish in stocked waters, they really don't think much of that kind of fishing. Instead, they'd rather trick a wild brook trout no larger than a child's hand with their fly poles in a stream they're fishing alone. It doesn't make much for the frying pan, but they'd be quick to point out that they're out there to fish, not to eat. Fishing is a ritual to them, one that honors both the angler for perseverance and attention to detail, and a fish for its miraculous ability to survive by outwitting us.

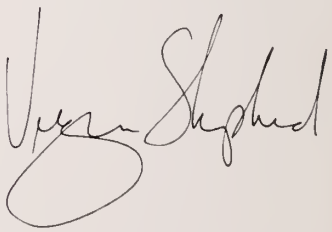
Yet, who are we to judge? For those of us without a bass boat or canoe, and lacking experience in the art of fly-fishing, we can pack up a rod, a jar of salmon eggs and fish off the banks during trout season without worrying a single minute about whether we're wearing the right clothes or making "splats" on the water with awkward casts. We catch huge fish that have no business being caught, we get out on a stream with our families, and to top it all off, we get to eat what we catch. We look forward to Opening Day for weeks. I know someone who used to get so excited about Opening Day that about 15 minutes before legal fishing time on that special day, he was shaking so badly from anticipation that he couldn't even tie a knot in his line.

Nevertheless, it's difficult to ignore the nastiness out there on the trout streams. Landowners get fed up with anglers leaving trash, ruining roads, and blocking access to the streams running along their property, and our biologists struggle every year to make up for the stocked waters they lose when these same disgusted landowners decide to post their property to keep the disrepectful at bay.

The very nature of the catchable trout stocking program summons greed. With all those Purina Trout Chow-raised fish swimming around in unknown waters, it's no wonder that some people just can't restrain themselves from harvesting as many as they possibly can before someone else does. After all, these are not wild animals, these are hatchery-raised fish dumped into a stream for the sole purpose of fishing them out. It's enough to make the devil himself smile while watching a stocking truck ladle out hundreds of fish into the very stretch of stream you are about to fish. So many fish—so little time!

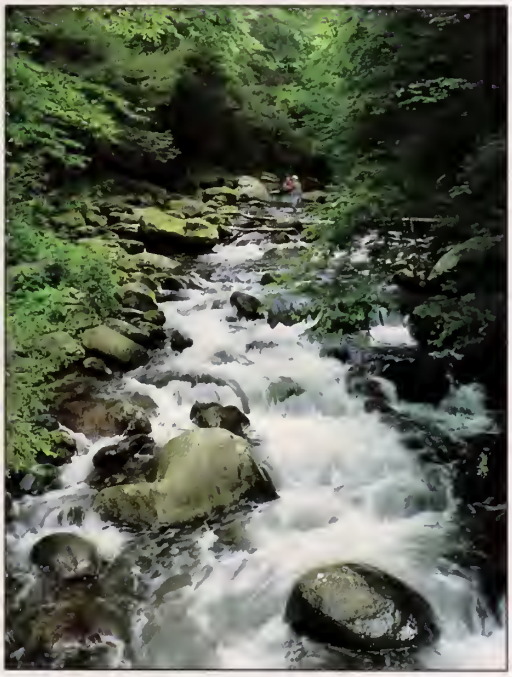
On the other hand, I'm told that more than 400 youngsters squeal in delight when they catch their first trout of the year on the Rose River in Madison County, where the stream is stocked and off-limits to adults for the entire day. And I'm told that this event which nurtures a love for the outdoors, for fishing, and for fair play grows bigger each year.

There's angel and devil in us all. It just depends on which one gets your attention. The catchable trout stocking program brings the devil out in many, but perhaps it's the challenge of resisting that temptation that promises to make us angels of us all—if only for a day.



The art of fly-tying requires a minimum of equipment and is the perfect hobby for the angler with a good imagination, steady hands, and the desire to catch more fish. Turn to page 7 for details; photo by Harry Murray.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE



Turn to our special 1993 Trout Guide on page 14 for the latest information on trout fishing this season! Photo by Rob Simpson.

Cover: Shenandoah National Park; photo by Rob Simpson.

Features

4 **Tumbling Full of Fish** by Bruce Ingram
Big Tumbling Creek and Laurel Bed Creek in the Clinch Mountain WMA are beautiful places to find trout—and plenty of them.

7 **Let Your Imagination Fly...** by Harry Murray
Tying your own flies can open up a whole new dimension to fishing, and improve your success on the stream.

14 **Trout Guide**
In this 16-page guide, you'll find the latest information on our catchable trout stocking program, trout lakes, and special regulation streams—plus location maps to help you get there.

16 **Catchable Trout Stocking Plan**

March Journal

30 Journal
32 Recipes
33 Photo Tips
34 Safety

Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3

Tumbling Full

Big Tumbling gorge; photo by Bruce Ingram.

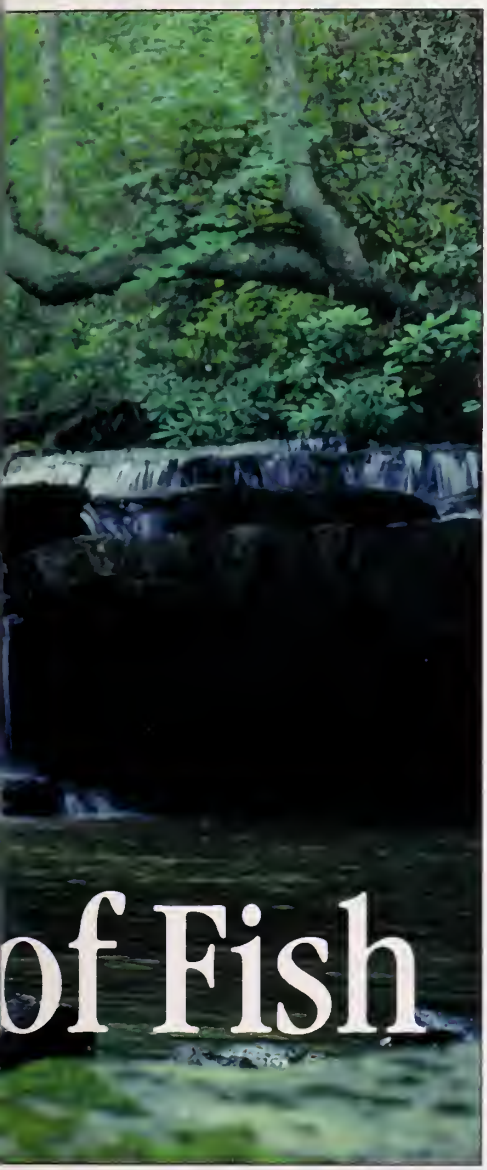
Big Tumbling Creek and Laurel Bed Creek in the Clinch Mountain WMA are beautiful places to find trout—and plenty of them.

by Bruce Ingram

For some 30 minutes, my fishing partner and I literally tossed every lure and bait we had at the rainbow trout that was finning about in the small pool. Finally, the fish ingested a whole nightcrawler that I had allowed to drift through the hole. After a brief but spirited battle, I finally corralled the trout. Admiring the fish briefly, I gently slipped it back into the cool, clear waters of Big Tumbling Creek. After all, a fish that provided so much challenge and pleasure deserved to be released.

As is true with trout anywhere, the fish of Big Tumbling Creek can be very finicky to deal with, or they can be embarrassingly easy to catch. On my first visit to the stream two summers ago, I had to work extremely hard to just catch two fish while my companion for the day, Hungry Mother State Park Ranger Glen Moorer, easily caught his five fish limit. But, what makes the trout fishing there so unique is the pristine setting where this angling takes place. What's more, there is never any shortage of trout.

Located in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' (VDGIF) Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) some seven miles west of Saltville, Big Tumbling Creek is one of Virginia's three fee fishing areas (Douthat Lake and Crooked Creek being the other



two). As such, these three bodies of water receive regular infusions of trout, insuring that there are always plenty of fish for the visiting angler.

Big Tumbling Creek and Laurel Bed Creek to the outflow of Laurel Bed Lake (a 300-acre impoundment on the top of Clinch Mountain in Russell County) offer approximately seven miles of fee fishing opportunity, and a diversity in stream conditions and accessibility to the angler. From the entrance of the fee area to the confluence of Red Creek (a tributary of Big Tumbling), stream gradients are moderate and access to the stream is easy.

Stream gradients increase dramatically and access is more difficult from the confluence of Red Creek to Laurel Bed bridge. But, from Laurel Bed bridge to the confluence of Laurel Bed and Briar Cove Creeks, gradients once more become moderate and stream access is easy again. Continuing up Laurel Bed Creek, stream gradients once again become steep.

"Most of Big Tumbling Creek and Laurel Bed Creek," says VDGIF fisheries biologist John Jessee, "is characterized by boulder-strewn sections, with the more moderate gradient section offering meadow stream features with slower current and with shallow flats interspersed with pools and riffles."

The gorge area of Big Tumbling Creek that Jessee refers to is an area where sportsmen can disengage themselves from crowds and find solitude. Glen Moorer says that the area takes most of a day to fish; just maneuvering down and later up the sheer mountain bluffs that envelop the gorge can take a great deal of time. And Wes Dolvin, former fee fishing area manager for Clinch Mountain WMA, describes the boulders that you will find in the gorge as being "as big as Mack trucks."

"The gorge is really wild and beautiful," enthused Dolvin. "The rhododendron and trees close in upon the stream, and the steep mountainsides seem to come right up to the water. The gorge itself is probably only a half mile to three quarters of a mile in length from where Red Creek enters at the bottom of the gorge to where you can finally climb out at the Big Falls area at the top of the gorge. But, what a wild and beautiful area it is!"

Indeed, the gorge is so inaccessible that it is stocked only once a week during the season and then only in a very novel way. Along the road that runs alongside the gorge, periodically you will find platforms with wires suspended above them. Those wires run down the mountain into the gorge. On stocking day, workers will mount the platform, affix a sealed bucket with trout inside to the wire, and then slide the container down the slope into the belly of the gorge. At the bottom of the gorge, a waiting attendant removes the bucket from the wire and releases the trout into Big Tumbling Creek.

After you leave the top of Big Tumbling Creek gorge, at the spectacular waterfall called Big Falls, you enter into a section of Big Tumbling that is prototype trout water. As Jessee noted, the access there is easy, with the stream characterized by large mossy rocks, by alders and Christmas ferns growing along the banks, and by small pools, shallow runs, and plenty of pocket water.

I found nearly all of these "pockets" to contain rainbow trout, which more often than not dashed out after my spinner, batted the lure about, and then rushed back to their lair.

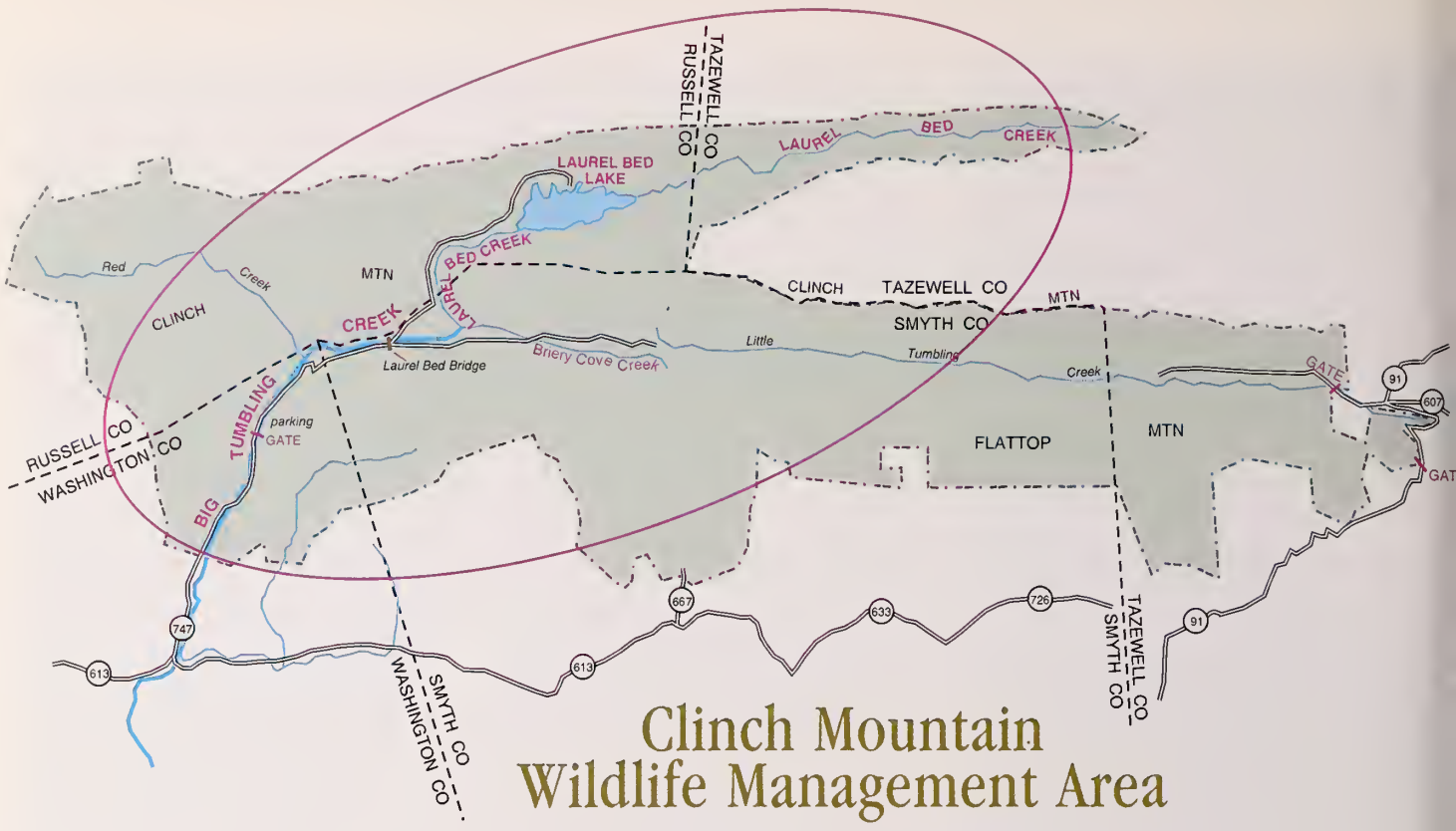
Upstream from this section, the stream once again undergoes a dramatic metamorphosis, changing now into a heavily shrouded, meadow-type branch with plenty of pocket water as well as three to four feet deep pools. Along that portion of the creek, I caught my two rainbows and Glen Moorer limited out.

As Jessee noted, much of Laurel Bed Creek is similar in appearance to the Big Tumbling Creek gorge area. The upper reaches of Laurel Bed Creek, however, exhibit plenty of evidence of beaver handiwork. This section of the Clinch Mountain WMA stream looks much like a New England highland bog with beaver ponds, marshy stream borders, and evergreens growing in profusion. According to Wes Dolvin, few people bother to work Laurel Bed Creek, although the fishing can be excellent there, especially in the spring.

Above Laurel Bed Creek is Laurel Bed Lake itself. The impoundment also appears much like one that you would find in the uplands of New England instead of the highlands of far western Virginia. Almost totally enclosed by forest except for a small section of riprap, Laurel Bed Lake is one of the most picturesque bodies of water I have ever visited. And the fishing is quite exceptional, too.

"Fishing is best in Laurel Bed Lake from the opening of trout season through June," explained Jessee.

Laurel Bed Lake is managed in conjunction with the fee area and re-

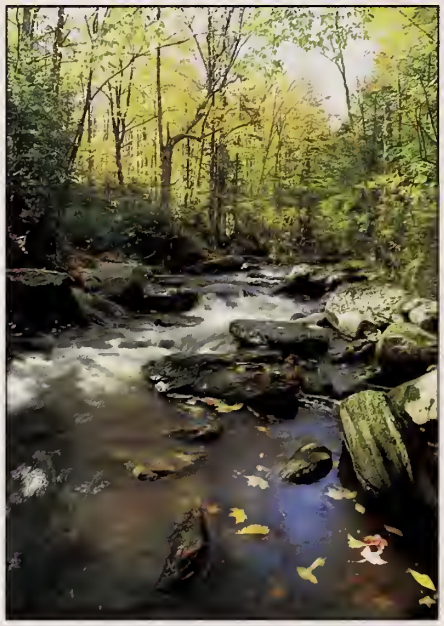


The fee fishing areas located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area in southwest Virginia require a $4 daily permit to fish from March 20 through September 6. Graphics by Pels.

quires a daily permit for fishing privileges. Prior to the opening of trout season, the lake is stocked with 8,000 catchable brook trout. Adult smallmouth bass also have been stocked in the lake to provide diversified fishing opportunities and to control the rock bass population. No smallmouths may be creeled, however, until their populations become established in the lake.

Big Tumbling and Laurel Bed Creeks are stocked with catchable rainbow trout every day except Sunday. Fee fishing closes at Big Tumbling Creek on Labor Day, reverting to put-and-take trout stream regulations, and the $4 daily permit is no longer required. However, you do need the regular trout stamp that was not required during the fee fishing period.

Regarding lures, Moorer's favorite one at Big Tumbling is a Rooster Tail spinner. On our excursion, I saw him entice several rainbows with this lure. If the fish are striking short, the park ranger often places some of Berkley's Trout Bait, also known simply as "power bait," onto one of the trebles of the spinner. Of course, power bait molded into the shape of salmon eggs is also an effective trout attractant in the fee fishing area.



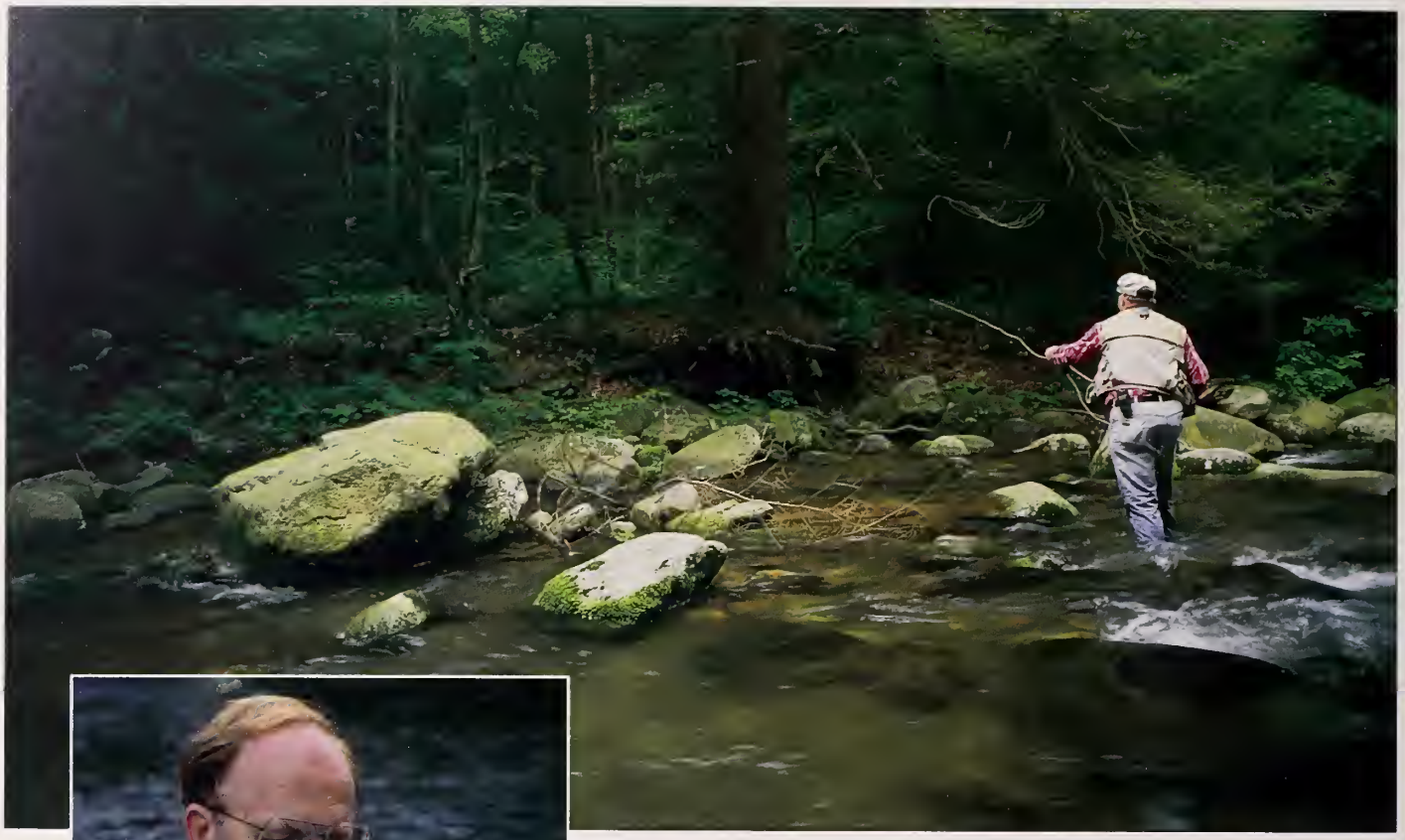
You can enjoy the remote wilderness experience on Big Tumbling Creek while catching rainbow trout which are stocked daily except Sundays during the season; photo by Dwight Dyke.

Other good baits on the stream are small spoons, ultralight minnow imitation plugs, and tiny crankbaits. As mentioned earlier, nightcrawlers are an outstanding bait on the stream and lake. Moorer recommends four or six-pound-test line and a medium or medium-light action spinning outfit for the fee fishing area. Fly fishing is also a very viable option on Big Tumbling, and the trout will hit a wide assortment of nymphs and surface flies.

To visit the area, from Interstate 81 use Exit 29 (VA 91) or Exit 35 (VA 107)and travel to Saltville. At Saltville, follow VA 634 to VA 613. Follow VA 613 west five miles to 747. Follow 747 north to entrance of Clinch Mountain WMA. Daily permits are available from the concession at the entrance to the fee fishing area. ☐

Bruce Ingram is a freelance writer and the Virginia editor for Outdoor Life *magazine.*

Let Your
Imagination Fly...



*Page 7: Tappley Bass bug (**hook**: Mustad 94840, sizes 2,4; **thread**: Kevlar; **body**: deer body hair; **tail:** bucktail; **weed guard**: mono). **This page**: Fly-fishing the Rapidan River(**inset**: Harry Murray). All photos by Harry Murray.*

Tying your own flies can open up a whole new dimension to fishing, and improve your success on the stream.

by Harry Murray

The art of fly-tying is one of the most gratifying aspects of angling. Many of its rewards are subtly hidden, to be revealed only when one delves into the careful blending of furs, feathers and hooks to produce a beautiful, well-designed fly.

The simple act of concocting the feathered food imitations puts one in a relaxed frame of mind, opening the imagination to thoughts of the nice trout which that specific fly will produce. One's entire outlook is mellowed; sitting at the fly tying table with its assorted colorful materials, the snow or rain outside the window is now viewed as a reservoir to gradually replenish the cool streams for next summer. Thoughts ramble pleasantly back over many fishing trips. Some bring back memories of fish landed under demanding situations, while others motivate the imagination to devise a better fly for that one especially large fish that would not take any fly in your box. You feel confident that you can tie a fly which will fool those selective fish better than any pattern available. And, you are right!

This is where the second reward comes in; your success on the stream will increase when you become proficient in tying flies for your individual needs. In order to achieve this you will need to draw from different avenues of the angling game, but you are completely capable of doing just that.

First comes the awareness that a specific angling need is not being completely met with existing flies. Second, one needs a realistic view of his or her fishing capabilities and just what is expected of this new fly. Finally, an understanding of fly-tying materials is required.

In order to put this in proper perspective, let's look at why and how one successful dry fly was developed.

About 15 years ago, several students in my Lord Fairfax College fly-tying class approached me, stating that they felt they were not as successful in outsmarting trout during the early part of the season with dry flies as they should be. They knew the wild trout were feeding profusely on both the Quill Gordon *(Epeorus pleuralis)* and the March Brown *(Stenonema vicarium)* mayflies which hatch throughout Virginia during the first several months of the season. But the existing fly patterns which evolved in the Catskill Mountains of New York for these insects, although doing a superb job there, fell short on Southern trout. This, we felt, was a valid reason for attempting to produce a better early-season dry fly.

Next, we needed to determine just where and how this new fly would be fished. Large or small streams? Flat or choppy water? Low or high light levels? Our final determination was that some of the finest fly hatches and trout fishing early in the season occurs in our mountain streams. Characteristically, these streams are high gradient, producing choppy surfaces with many miniature white-topped waves. Not only were these strong currents drowning our old standby flies, the slight surface chop made it very difficult for us to see the dark wings of the former "hatch matching" patterns. Combining this evaluation with the fact that we wanted to give the trout a fly which matched the natural insects they were feeding upon, we now had our direction for our new pattern.

Simply stated, we needed to devise a fly which would look, to the trout, like the natural Quill Gordon and March Brown mayflies, that would float well in the white water of our trout streams, and that possessed superb angler visibility.

Armed with this information, we started evaluating the diverse array of fly-tying materials for those which would do the job.

In order to match the bodies of these natural mayflies, since that is really what the trout sees, we chose a new (at the time) polypropylene dubbing material, *Fly Rite*, in yellowish-tan color. This is a very close color match and possesses a density less than water which would help keep the fly floating. For the collar, we chose one brown and one grizzly hackle feather from the best grade rooster necks. Historically, these two shades are excellent fish producers and they greatly enhance the fly's flotation. Moose body hair was selected for the fly's tail, strictly to help float it. Lastly, we needed to incorporate a tying material which would help us see the fly on the water. The addition of a yellow calf tail wing does this nicely.

Thus evolved a fly which mimics the natural insects, floats like a cork, and one that we can see. But best of all, the trout take this new fly quite well. We named it the "Mr. Rapidan" after one of Virginia's trout streams. Yes, you can easily tie it, but more than that, it illustrates a sound, successful approach to fly design which you can easily incorporate into your own personal tying.

Now that you are properly motivated, let me share some points with you which will help you successfully expand your fly selection while simplifying some tying techniques.

There are hundreds of different styles of hooks available for fly-tying and it is important to select the correct one for the specific flies you plan to tie. For example, many years ago a good friend and master angler Charlie Brooks of West Yellowstone, Montana, talked me into tying some large, well-weighted Stonefly Nymphs to use with him in his Western streams the next year. I realized that the easiest route to construct very heavy nymphs to sink quickly was to tie these on "extra stout" wire hooks, those manufactured with much thicker wire than normal. I was very proud of my final patterns, because they really sank quickly. One of my crude angling friends simply referred to my masterpieces as "fuzzy sinkers." I figured he was just jealous, but the truth was that I couldn't catch fish on my big, heavy nymphs.

***Left**: These tiny size 24 Trico Mayflies in the author's hand will fool some of the toughest trout. **Below**: Tying a Mr. Rapidan Dry Fly (**hook**: Tiemco 100, sizes 12-20; **thread**: 6/0 Tan Nylon; **body**: Fly Rite #34; **tail**: Moose Body Hair; **wing**: Yellow Calf Tail; **hackle**: Grizzly & Brown); photos by Harry Murray.*

The essentials of fly-tying equipment are simple: with a vise, scissors, bobbin, dubbing needle, hackle pliers, and an assortment of hooks, thread, hackles, feathers and fur, you're in business; photo by Harry Murray.

Oh, I got many strikes, but I couldn't hook the fish. Finally, one day Charlie looked at my big nymphs and devastated me with his remark. "No wonder you can't hook trout on those things; you've used hooks made with wire which is too stout—the points are not sharp enough. You couldn't sink those points into Jello, let alone a fish's jaw." I learned a good lesson and have since been very careful in my hook selection. Little things count.

When tying flies for smallmouth bass, for example, do not select hooks with an excessively long shank which places the point of the hook a great distance from the front portion of the fly's body. When smallmouth bass attack their prey, they grab it by the head first and they may miss the point of the hook completely. Several years ago, a Southern popping bug company sent me numerous samples of their bugs with which to experiment, hoping I would list these in my fly shop catalog and sell them through my fly shop. These poppers were beautifully tied and I am sure they produced well for the largemouth bass in the Deep South which feed by engulfing the whole bug with a gulp, but I missed the majority of my strikes with them. Wondering if the long shank hooks these beautiful poppers were tied on could explain so many missed strikes, I alternated in my fishing with my regular bugs and these. I found that I hooked about three times as many fish per strike on my bugs as I did with the new poppers.

This same concept of hook length for smallmouth bass applies to underwater flies as well as top water. Simply stated, I find that my hooking percentages drop off if I go to hooks over four times the length of the regular shank—written as 4X long.

The proper selection of trout fly hooks is also very important. There are three separate hook styles which will simplify your selection. Streamers are usually tied on 3X to 4X long hooks. Nymphs and wet flies are tied on slightly heavy hooks which may be 1X or 2X long. Dry flies are tied on light wire hooks up to 3X long. Most fly tying hooks presently on the market are outstanding, but I still sharpen the points and mash the barbs down on all of them before I tie the fly. I'm sure this enhances the hooking qualities of my flies.

Even though hooks designed for underwater use are slightly heavier than those for top-water bugs, I still add weight to most of my streamers and nymphs. Fuse wire approximately equal to the diameter of the wire in the hook can be wrapped on the shank; the longer the wrap, the greater the sinking rate of the fly. Barbell or bathtub-chain eyes can be tied onto the hook which, when applied close to the hook eye, can be utilized

to produce a jigging effect to the fly in the water.

Cements are an important part of fly-tying. These can be divided into two basic categories, the rigid, hard-drying type and those which remain firm, yet flexible when dry. The hard-drying forms are excellent for applying a durable finish to the head of the fly and any other area where a rigid bond is required. These are normally referred to simply as head cements. Those which dry into a flexible, but firm bond have almost unlimited applications in fly-tying. I use these to anchor dry fly tails, lock dry fly wings into place, secure streamer wings, coat wing pads on nymphs, secure hackles and at all tie-in and tie-off locations. Good flexible cements are Murray's Wing Kote and Fleximent. In order to facilitate easy, accurate, and fast work of applying cement at all these areas, I use a hypo syringe. This simplifies fly-tying so much that I don't know how I got along before I started this form of cement application.

Body materials for flies are almost unlimited. Furs, synthetics, yarn, tinsels and even plastics are used here. The primary aspect to keep in mind when selecting the material for this portion of the fly is the pattern's final use. That is, if you are tying a dry fly, you want light, non-water absorbing materials. For nymphs, you want to mimic soft body parts or gill covers. For streamers, you want to suggest a minnow or baitfish's body.

For wings on our dry flies, we want materials which will imitate those of the real insects. They must be reasonably flexible to prevent twisting the leader with the repeated piston-line casting that goes along with the dry-fly fishing. Yet, the wings must be fairly durable so they will not collapse down over the fly after only a few fish are landed. And, if the wing can aid the angler in seeing the fly on the water, as in the case of the Mr. Rapidan, so much the better.

The word wing is a misnomer when applied to streamer flies, filtering down from the British Isles origin of fly construction. The bucktail or hackle feathers, although tied onto

Basic Fly Tying Kits

	Trout	Bass
Tools	Vise, scissors, hackle pliers, dubbing needle, bobbin, hair evener	Vise, scissors, hackle pliers, bobbin, dubbing needle
Hooks	Dry: 100 Tiemco sizes 10-24 94840 Mustad sizes 12-18 94842 Mustad sizes 18-24	Dry: 8089 Tiemco sizes 2, 6, 10 94840 Mustad sizes 4-12
	Nymph: 200 Tiemco sizes 10-20 3906B Mustad sizes 10-18	Nymph: 200 Tiemco sizes 4-10 9671 Mustad sizes 4-10
	Streamer: 300 Tiemco sizes 8-14 9672 Mustad szies 8-16	Streamer: 5262 Tiemco sizes 4-10 9672 Mustad sizes 4-10
Thread	3/0 prewaxed monocord, 6/0 and 8/0 prewaxed nylon	Kevlar, 3/0 prewaxed monocord
Cements	Flexament, head cement, Murray's Wing Kote	Flexament, head cement, Murray's Wing Kote
Hackle	Dry: Blue dun, grizzly, light ginger, brown	Dry: blue dun, brown, grizzly.
	Wet: Speckled Indian Hen Back, grouse, partridge	Wet: brown, Speckled Indian Hen Back, grouse
	Saddles: black, grizzly, brown, olive	Saddle: red, blue dun, yellow, grizzly, black, brown, olive, green
Body Material	poly dubbing, assorted animal furs, chenille, floss	deer hair, chenille, floss, fur, poly dubbing
Ribbing	gold and silver wire, oval and flat tinsel	gold and silver wire, oval and
Wing Material	mallard & wood duck feathers, marabou, bucktail, turkey quill, bucktail	bucktail, elk hair, marabou, turkey quill
Tails	moose body hair, spade hackle, microfibbets, pheasant, goose biots	bucktail, elk hair, moose body hair, ostrich
Miscellaneous	lead wire, dubbing wax, fly foam, furry foam	lead wire, lead & doll eyes, dubbing wax, foam & cork popper bodies, popper paint

Catching a big rainbow like the one above on your own fly (Mickey Finn streamer pictured above) is one of angling greatest thrills; photo by Doug Stamm.

the hook in the wing position, are actually used to imitate the appearance and action of the various minnows, so select your materials with this goal in mind.

Tailing materials are extremely important in fly construction. On dry flies, they are required to support the fly and keep it floating and thus must be strong, but not bulky. Moose body hair and spade hackles are hard to beat on drys. On underwater flies, the tails aid in creating a lifelike action and need to be soft, but durable.

Hackle material, which is used to form the collar area of flies, should be selected with regard to the final use of the fly in mind. For dry flies, this means choosing the stiffest domestic or Indian rooster cape available in the color required. Underwater flies, on the other hand, perform best with soft hen hackle, partridge hackle or grouse hackle. These latter materials absorb water, adding action to the submerged fly.

As you can see, one does not need a broad assortment of tying materials in order to tie productive flies if these materials are selected wisely. The chart on page 11 will give you some basic guidelines in selecting the basic materials for those flies you plan to tie.

The final advantage gained in tying your own flies is economic. Many productive flies can be constructed with less than 15¢ worth of materials and it would be difficult to incorporate more than 25¢ worth of material into the most elaborate patterns.

Regardless of one's initial motivation for learning fly-tying, I can assure you the rewards will be greater than you ever anticipated, especially when that big trout which evaded you all last season rises confidently and sucks in that fly you designed specifically for him. It really works!

Harry Murray is a freelance writer who teaches fishing and fly tying in Edinburg, Virginia.

Winter Comfort
by
Bob Henley

Winter Comfort

by Bob Henley

A limited edition of 950 . . .
Available now from *Virginia Wildlife*.

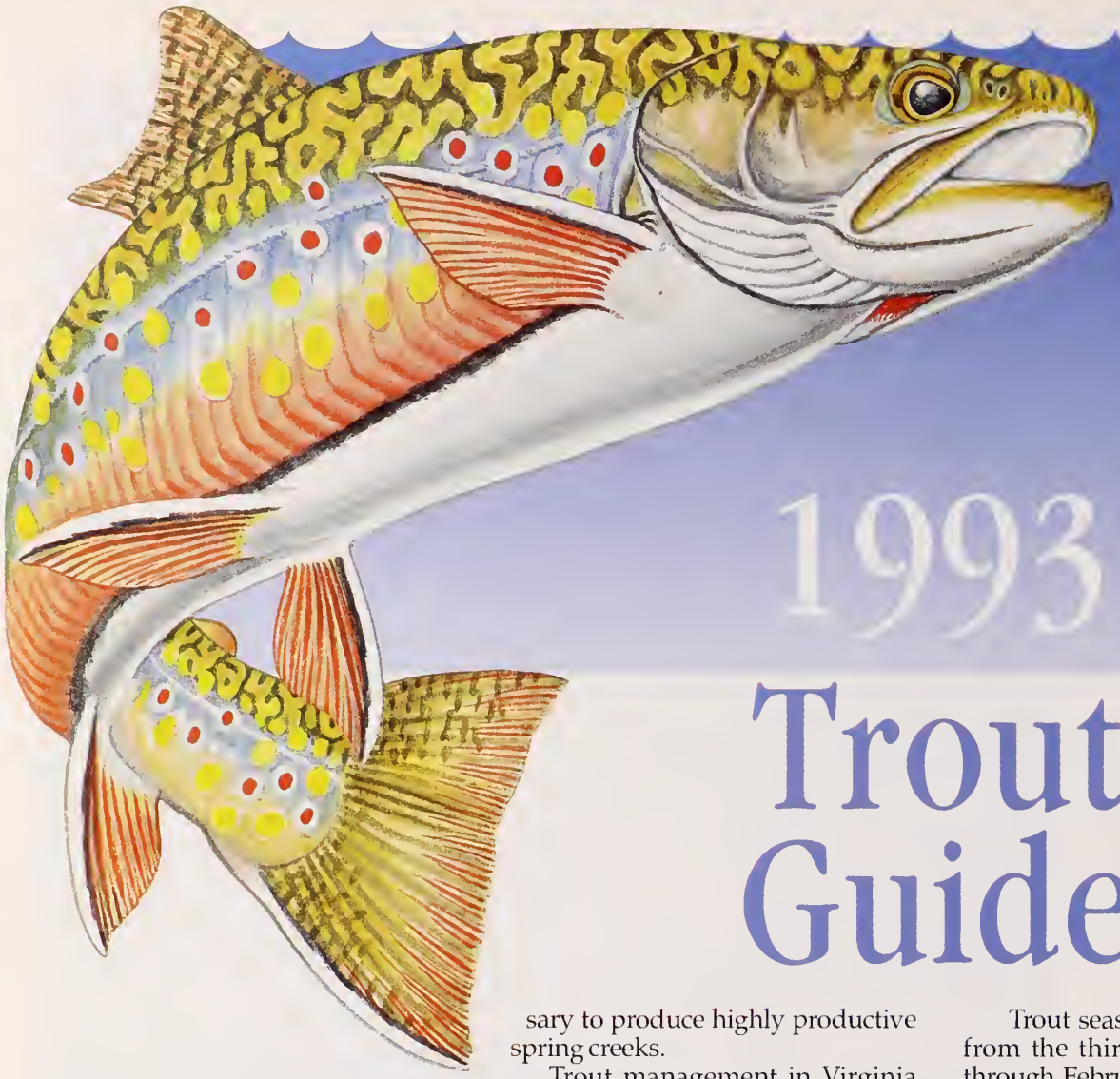
We are proud to offer wildlife artist Bob Henley's limited edition print of two red foxes in snow to our *Virginia Wildlife* subscribers. Bob Henley's breathtaking work has been featured in the February and July 91 issues of *Virginia Wildlife*, and for weeks after those magazines appeared, people called us inquiring about Bob Henley prints for sale. We realized that our subscribers weren't content to have a Bob Henley work in their magazines, they wanted one for their walls! And, lo and behold! Bob has allowed us to make a special offer to our subscribers. First, you can have your very own 13"x19 1/2" *Winter Comfort* print for $35 when you buy two one-year subscriptions to *Virginia, Wildlife*. That's a savings of $10 off the regular price of *Winter Comfort*.

Of course, if you've already given everyone you know (including yourself) a subscription to *Virginia Wildlife*, you can still purchase *Winter Comfort* for $45. Any way you look at it, we hope you're as happy as we are about the opportunity to own a Bob Henley limited edition print for under $50. Orders yours today!

Use the gray card in this magazine to order your prints and subscriptions, or send in your list of gift subscriptions and the number of prints ordered with your check made out to: *Treasurer of Virginia*, to: *Virginia Wildlife*, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Freshwater Game Fish Poster

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has produced a full-color 21" X 36" poster of 23 freshwater game fish in Virginia. This identification poster of fish includes largemouth bass, trout, crappie, catfish, perch and pickerel, and can be purchased by sending a check for $8 to:
Fish Poster, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. Please make check payable to: Treasurer of Virginia. ☐



1993 Trout Guide

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2800 miles of trout streams in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2200 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valley between these ranges contains the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The catchable stocking program is the best known and most popular. Such waters are periodically stocked with catchable size trout. See the *Trout Stocking Plan* on pages 15-17 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule. All stocked and special regulation waters are featured on five maps (pages 25-29).

The wild trout program includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The put-n-grow-n-take program involves sublegal trout stockings. This relatively small program is rapidly growing in size and popularity due to the high quality trout fishing provided.

Trout season in Virginia is open from the third Saturday in March through February 1. Fishing success for wild and stocked trout is best from April through mid-June. After this period, warm weather and normally low flow conditions make fishing more difficult. The dedicated fisherman, however, can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

In 1975, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries initiated a project to survey the entire trout region of the state. The purpose of this survey was to fully identify the trout resource in order to provide habitat protection, insure that proper regulations have been implemented, and offer the best stocking program possible. The result of this survey was the discovery of a fine wild trout resource, implementation of new statewide trout regulations, and greater diversification of Virginia's trout fishing opportunities.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-n-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable size trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank and Wytheville. Three rearing facilities are located at Marion, Williamsville, and Montebello.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall at the hatcheries, and placed in hatching jars which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Jars must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25 to 30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until the sac is absorbed and they begin taking small pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2-3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways. The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9-11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The cost of this program is derived primarily from the trout license which is required in addition to a valid state fishing license to fish in stocked trout water. Annual output from the program is approximately 800,000 catchable trout in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

Streams are heavily stocked during the season closure in anticipation of the large crowds on opening day, Often, surplus trout are available in the fall which were too small for earlier stockings. These fish are used for additional stockings, generally in October and December depending on stream conditions.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs which identify the portion of stream stocked. Sections so marked are open to public fishing in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners.This is the only case where fishermen are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Pages 14-15: Brook trout and fly illustrations by Michael Simon. ***Above:*** *photo by Lloyd B. Hill.*

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

The 1993 trout season will officially open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, 1993 and will close on February 1, 1994.

A few changes will be made in streams stocked during 1993. The North Fork Tye River in Nelson County will not be stocked due to the presence of an excellent native brook trout population. Wolf Creek in Tazewell and Bland Counties has been removed from the stocking program due to posted property. Lake Witten, a four-year-old impoundment in Tazewell County, has been added to the spring 1993 stocking list. The Middle Fork Powell River in Wise County has been put back on the 1993 stocking list as a result of improved water quality.

After opening day, most streams will receive additional introductions of trout through May 29. The number of stockings streams will receive will vary from 1-5. Poorer quality streams will receive the fewest introductions; while better streams will be stocked more often. Most inseason introductions will occur at two to two and one-half week intervals.

Streams to be stocked are listed by county in the following table along with the last stocking date introductions will occur. Streams to be stocked during the fall are also noted.

Catchable Trout

	Spring Stocking Completed By:	Fall Stocked Streams
ALBEMARLE COUNTY		
Moormans River (N & S Forks)*	5/22	
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	5/29	X
ALLEGHENY COUNTY		
Clifton Forge Reservoir	5/29	X
Smith Creek*	4/17	
Pounding Mill Creek*	4/17	
Jerrys Run*	4/17	
AMHERST COUNTY		
Davis Mill Creek*	5/22	
Little Irish Creek*	4/24	
Pedlar River (Upper)	5/29	
Pedlar River (Lower)	5/29	X
Piney River (S. Fk. & Proper)	5/29	
AUGUSTA COUNTY		
North River (Gorge)*	5/1	
North River (Upper)*	4/17	
Mill Creek*	3/27	
Braley Pond*	5/15	X
Back Creek*	5/1	
Upper Sherando Lake*	5/15	X
Lower Sherando Lake*	5/15	X
Hearthstone Lake*	5/15	X
Falls Hollow*	4/17	
Elkhorn Lake*	5/22	X
BATH COUNTY		
Back Creek*	5/1	
Pads Creek*	4/17	
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)	5/29	X
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	5/29	X
Bullpasture River	5/29	X
Spring Run	5/29	X
Douthat Lake	—	X
BEDFORD COUNTY		
Hunting Creek*	5/29	
Liberty Lake	5/1	
BLAND COUNTY		
Lick Creek	5/22	
Laurel Fork Creek	4/24	
BOTETOURT COUNTY		
Jennings Creek*	5/22	
North Creek*	5/22	
Middle Creek*	4/24	
McFalls Creek*	4/24	
Roaring Run	5/22	
BUCHANAN COUNTY		
Dismal River	5/22	X
Hurricane Fork	4/10	
CARROLL COUNTY		
Crooked Creek	5/22	
Laurel Fork Creek	5/22	X
Little Reed Island Creek	5/29	X
Lovills Creek**	4/3	
Stewarts Creek	5/8	

	Spring Stocking Completed By:	Fall Stocked Streams
CRAIG COUNTY		
Barbours Creek*	5/8	
North Fork Barbours Creek***		
Potts Creek	5/29	X
DICKENSON COUNTY		
Frying Pan Creek	5/22	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	5/22	
Pound River	5/29	X
Russell Fork (Bartlick)	5/29	X
FLOYD COUNTY		
Mira Fork	4/24	
Burkes Fork	5/29	X
Goose Creek	4/17	
Howell Creek	5/8	
Little Indian Creek	5/8	
Little River	5/22	X
Laurel Fork	4/24	
West Fork Little River	5/8	
Rush Fork***		
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Greene Creek	5/8	
Maggadee Creek	5/8	
Runnett Bag Creek	5/1	
FREDERICK COUNTY		
Winchester Lake	5/15	X
Hogue Creek	4/24	
Cedar Creek	5/29	X
Paddy Run	5/1	
Clearbrook Lake	5/15	X
GILES COUNTY		
Big Stoney Creek*	5/29	X
Dismal Creek*	5/22	
GRAYSON COUNTY		
Big Wilson Creek	5/22	
Middle Fox Creek	5/29	
Big Fox Creek*	5/22	
Elk Creek	5/29	X
Helton Creek*	5/29	
Hales Lake*	5/29	X
GREENE COUNTY		
Lynch River	4/10	
South River	5/22	
HENRY COUNTY		
Smith River (Dam)	5/29	X
Smith River (Lower)	5/29	X
HIGHLAND COUNTY		
Bullpasture River	5/29	X
Potomac River	5/15	
Bullpasture River (McDowell)	5/15	
LEE COUNTY		
Martins Creek	5/29	X
North Fork Powell River	5/29	

Stocking Plan

	Spring Stocking Completed By:	Fall Stocked Streams
MADISON COUNTY		
Garth Run	4/10	
Hughes River	5/29	X
Robinson River	5/22	
Rose River	5/22	
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
Craigs Creek*	4/24	
Poverty Creek*	4/17	
South Fork Roanoke River	5/29	X
Toms Creek	4/24	
NELSON COUNTY		
Tye River	5/29	X
South Rockfish River	4/3	
PAGE COUNTY		
Cub Run*	5/15	
Upper Passage Creek*	4/24	
Hawksbill Creek	5/1	
PATRICK COUNTY		
Ararat River***		
Clarks Creek	5/15	
Dan River (Above Powerhouse)	5/29	
Dan River (Below Powerhouse)	5/29	X
South Mayo River (North Fork)	5/15	
South Mayo River (South Fork)	5/15	
Rockcastle Creek	5/29	
Round Meadow Creek	5/29	
Poorhouse Creek	5/15	
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY		
Quantico MCB	5/1	
PULASKI COUNTY		
Peak Creek	5/8	
ROANOKE COUNTY		
Glade Creek	5/15	X
Roanoke River (City)	5/15	X
Tinker Creek	5/15	X
Roanoke River (Salem)	5/15	X
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY		
Mill Creek	5/15	X
Irish Creek	5/1	
South River	5/1	X
Maury River	5/15	X
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY		
North Fork Shenandoah River	5/22	X
German River	4/24	
Dry River	5/15	
Silver Lake	4/24	
Shoemaker River*	4/24	
Briery Lake*	5/15	X
Hone Quarry Lake*	5/22	X
Hone Quarry Run*	5/15	
Briery Branch	4/24	
RUSSELL COUNTY		
Big Cedar Creek	5/29	X

	Spring Stocking Completed By:	Fall Stocked Streams
SCOTT COUNTY		
Little Stoney Creek*	5/22	
Stock Creek	5/22	
Big Stoney Creek	5/22	
Straight Fork (Lower)	5/22	
Bark Camp Lake*	5/29	X
SHENANDOAH COUNTY		
Big Stoney Creek	5/29	X
Mill Creek	5/22	
Peters Mill Run	4/10	
Tomahawk Pond*	5/15	X
Passage Creek	5/22	X
Little Passage Creek*	4/10	
SMYTH COUNTY		
South Fork Holston River (Lower)	5/29	X
Staleys Creek	5/29	
South Fork Holston River (Gorge)*	5/29	
Comers Creek*	5/22	
Hurricane Creek*	5/1	
Cressy Creek*	4/10	
Dickeys Creek*	4/17	
Middle Fork Holston River	4/17	
TAZEWELL COUNTY		
Cove Creek	5/29	
Laurel Creek*	5/22	
Roaring Fork*	5/22	
Little Tumbling Creek	5/29	
Lake Witten	5/1	
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	5/29	X
Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	5/29	X
Tennessee Laurel	5/29	
Green Cove Creek	5/22	
Big Brumley Creek	5/1	
Valley Creek	4/10	
Big Tumbling Creek	5/29	
Straight Branch*	5/29	
Bear Tree Impoundment*	5/29	X
WISE COUNTY		
Clear Creek*	4/10	
High Knob Lake*	5/22	
Middle Fork Powell River	5/22	
WYTHE COUNTY		
Stoney Creek*	4/17	
Gullion Fork Creek*	4/17	
Gullion Fork Ponds	4/17	
West Fork Reed Creek*	4/24	
Cripple Creek	5/22	X

* National Forest Streams
** Not Stocked Preseason
*** Stocked Preseason Only

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-n-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the third Saturday in March through Labor Day at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and through September 30th at Douthat. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout stamp is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is five fish per day at all times.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area:

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of the 330-acre Laurel Bed Lake and approximately seven miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. The lake provides a good trout fishery and is used to regulate summer flow in the streams. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams and fishing must cease at 7:00 p.m. to allow for restocking. Camping is available at the area and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, five miles east of Galax. The area consists of five miles of stream which is stocked. In addition, approximately two miles of stream are managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. Surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. As at the Clinch Mountain Area, fishing must cease at 7:00 p.m. to allow for restocking. No facilities are available at Crooked Creek for camping, but private facilities are available nearby.

Above: *Brown trout; photo by Doug Stamm.* ***Page 19:*** *Trout fishing in Virginia lakes can be rewarding; photo by Soc Clay.*

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing area has been expanded for 1993 to include about four miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. In addition, the fee fishing season has been extended through September 30th and provisions have been made to establish a children-only fishing area. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, pickerel and catfish in addition to trout which are stocked twice weekly. The lake, stream and surrounding land is located within Douthat State Park and is administered by the Virginia Division of Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked in the spring under the put-n-take program (see *Trout Stocking Plan*). However, very few provide good year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-n-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and two reservoirs deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. These two story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warm-water layer where fish such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is included in the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. The lake is open to fishing from the opening day of trout season until February 1, with a creel limit of five fish per day. As with the remaining sections of the fee fishing area, a daily permit is required in addition to a state fishing license. The fishery has been based almost entirely on brook trout in past years. Fishing is usually excellent through June with limits of trout being common. Favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, meal worms, flies and spinners. Minnows are not allowed at the lake in order to prevent introduction of other fish species. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches feed in. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir

The Lexington City Reservoir is a Lexington Water Supply Reservoir of 22 acres. It is a put-n-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure nine to 13 inches in length.

It is a half mile hike to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect and no trout stamp is required. A daily permit is required and is available from the Lexington Recreation Department (703) 463-9525. Take Route 251 from Lexington to Route 612. The access road is off Route 612 at Oakdale.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County Water Supply Reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-n-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10 to 12-inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1 1/2 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Pedlar Ranger District in Buena Vista at (703) 261-6105. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off of Forest Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off of Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off of Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976 and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Fisherman success has been good with most fish in the 8 to 14-inch range. In addition, occasional large brook trout of 2 to 3 pounds have been taken. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

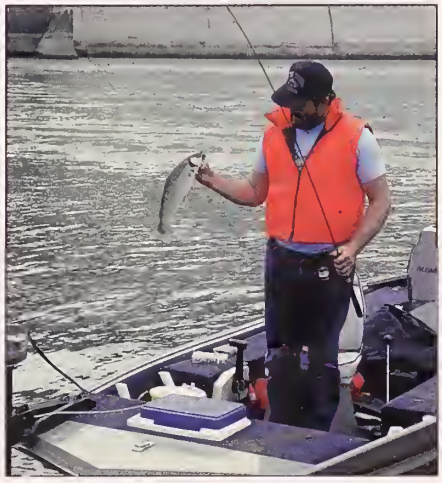
Lake Moomaw

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 12-mile long, 2,530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area which is owned and managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal five to 15-foot drawdown by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and McConaughy strain of rainbow trout.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years. Brown trout of 2 to 5 pounds should be numerous in 1993. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most



trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits, some are caught still fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass and 10 inches on trout. Neither trout nor forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina, and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (703) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (703) 839-2521; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (703) 962-1138.

Philpott Reservoir

Philpott Lake is a 2,880-acre reservoir located west of Martinsville. Warmwater fishing is the major attraction, but trout are also stocked annually. Stockings generally consist of 8 to 9-inch McConaughy rainbow trout released in the fall of the year. Fishing success has been highly variable, probably due to the varying size of the summer coldwater habitat available. Trout can be caught throughout the lake during spring, fall and winter, but during summer months, most successful fishermen fish deep at night. Philpott generally produces some of the larger rainbow trout taken each year, with catches up to 7 or 8 pounds.

Special regulation areas provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters as well as several types of stocked trout streams, and they include some of the state's best trout water. Check your fish law digest for the specific regulations applying to each area described below.

Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations require use of single hook artificial lures and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are the Rapidan River and its tributaries, Stewart's Creek, North Fork Moorman's River, Dan River and East Fork of Chestnut Creek, which require the release of all fish caught.

Buffalo Creek (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo Creek and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off of Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo Creek is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good native brook trout population with numerous fish 8 to 10 inches in length.

Special regulations protect the native trout populations in our mountain streams; photo by Harry Murray.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7-11 inches in length, brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill. The area adjoins the Shenandoah National Park. Minimum size limit in this section is eight inches rather than nine.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse to Townes Dam is the fourth stream in the state designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. The Dan River below the Pinnacles Powerhouse (Kibler Valley) remains put-and-take trout water. Reproducing brown trout are the dominant species in the lower reaches of the section, while wild brook trout are found in the upper reaches. This three-mile section of the Dan River has been subjected to very low flows for years, however, a new agreement with the City of Danville will result in greatly improved flows beginning in 1992-93. The special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 8 south of Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse. In addition, the section can be reached by taking

Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn left on Route 602 from Route 614 and proceed to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge at the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, has recently been designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks.The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream and is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8-13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7-12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

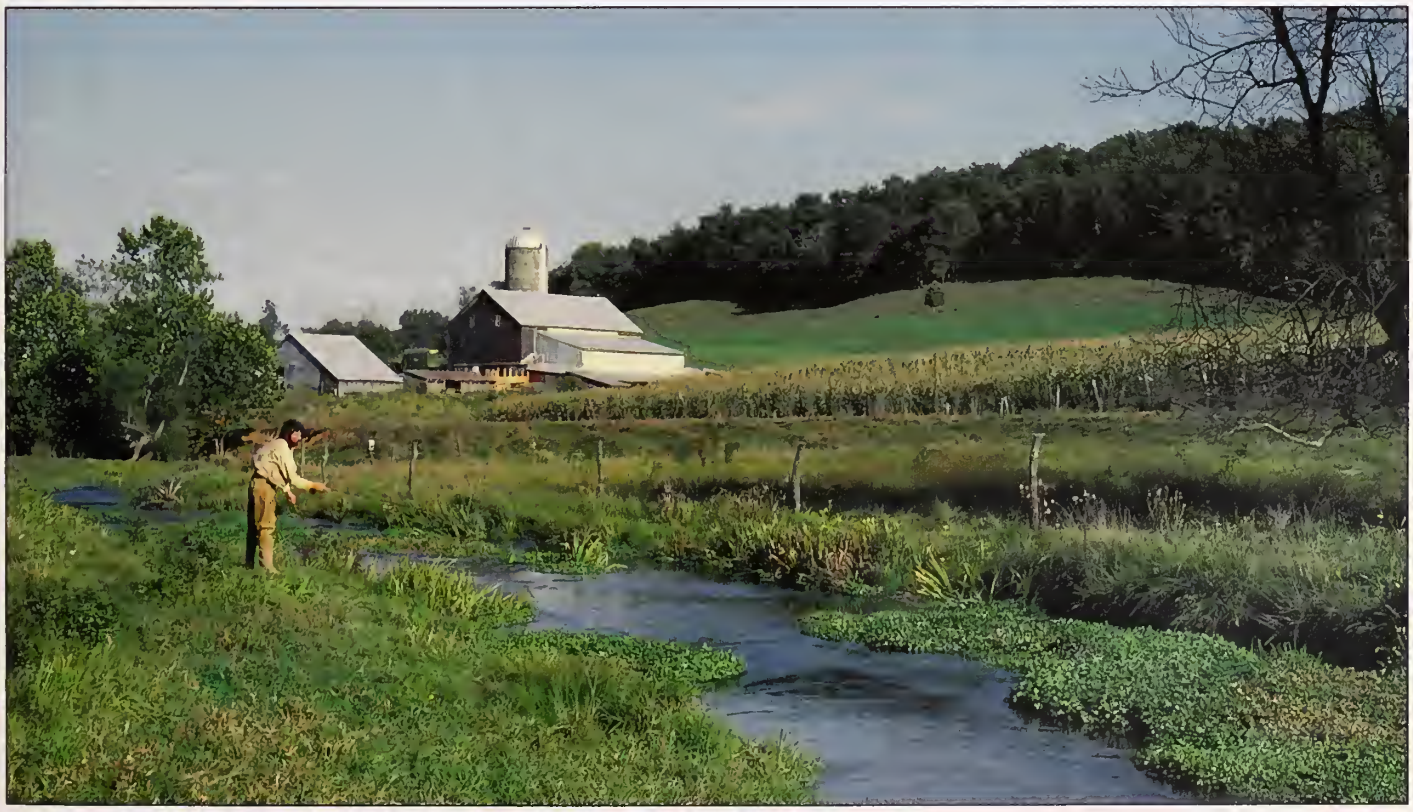
Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream above Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average from 7-10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (above the first bridge upstream of the North Creek campground) is designated for special regulations while the lower portion remains put-n-take trout water. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present in the headwater tributaries. Adult trout will range from 7-12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moorman River (Albemarle County)

The Shenandoah National Park recently designated that portion of the Moorman River within the Park as its second fish-for-fun stream. The stream contains an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8 to 12 inches. In addition, a



Mossy Creek is one of the Commonwealth's most popular special regulation trophy trout streams, with angler-wise brown trout weighing up to seven pounds that test the skills of the best fly-fishermen; photo by Michael Simon.

Most of Virginia's special regulation trout streams are located in remote mountain areas of rugged beauty and solitude; photo by Dwight Dyke.

small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. Moorman River can be reached by State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir. A good foot trail parallels the stream from the Park boundary.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest became a special regulation trout stream in 1991. Over 10 miles of fishable water, primarily within the recently created Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, provides anglers with an opportunity to catch native brook trout up to 10 inches in length in a remote setting. Late summer stream flows are often quite low, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on State Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan is our best known special regulation trout stream. The special regulation area includes that portion of the stream within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream may be reached by Route 662 from Graves Mill or Route 649 from Criglersville. A dirt road parallels most of the stream but the upper portion is gated. Native brook trout are the dominant species and adult trout range from 7-14 inches in length. Due to the special no creeling regulation, the Rapidan contains many 10-11 inch trout.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout and rainbow trout average 8-12 inches in length. Due to acidification of the stream in recent years, brook trout have replaced rainbows as the dominant trout species. The stream lies east of Raphine off of Route 608 a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the catch-and-release trout fisheries in the state. It is a high-gradient native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges, and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing. Only single hook, artificial lures can be used.

Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the North Carolina side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creek (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek from the mouth of Green Cove to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7-14-inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus near the Tennessee line and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area.

Shenandoah National Park

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures only, and restrict daily creel limits to five fish, all of which must be eight inches or more in length. The season is open from the third Saturday in March through October 15th. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout, but not all are open to fishing. Some isolated brown trout are also found in the lower reaches of the large, east slope streams.

Stocked Trout Streams

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 8-10 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for several months to a year before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Jackson River (Bath County)

The special regulation area of the Jackson River in Bath County was added in 1992. It extends from the USFS swing bridge just above the mouth of Muddy Run, upstream 3.0 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section of river had previously been managed as put-n-take. The special regulation area can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off of Route 623 and FS Road 481. This area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary above the old C & O dam upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, subcatchable brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8 to 12-inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Shenandoah National Park provides the angler with an entire region of special regulation trout streams.
Above: *White Oak Canyon; photo by Spike Knuth.*
Top: *Rapidan River; photo by Harry Murray.*

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hull Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. Holdover of stocked fish is good along with a fair population of native brook trout.

Trophy Trout Streams

Management of a few selected streams as trophy trout water is relatively new to Virginia. Regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook artificial lures and the creel to 2 fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek, Sinking Creek, and Smith Creek, furthermore, are restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is generally to stock fingerling trout (5-6") in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables and good numbers of 10 to 16-inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5 to 8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "grand canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately six miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8-12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8-18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off of Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained. Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3 to 7-pound class are available to fishermen.

Sinking Creek (Giles and Craig Counties)

The special section includes that portion of stream in Giles County extending from a cable and Department sign 0.4 miles below the State Route 703 low-water bridge upstream 1.8 miles to a cable and Department sign 0.1 miles above the Reynolds farm covered bridge and from a cable and Department sign 1.0 miles below the State Route 642 bridge upstream to a cable and department sign 0.5 miles above the State Route 642 bridge in Craig County. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually and angling is restricted to fly-fishing only. A fishing permit is required to fish this stream. Permits may be obtained at the Department office in Vinton and locally at the Twin Oaks Grocery Store on State Route 42 in Craig County and the Super Value Grocery Store in Newport.

Smith Creek (Rockingham County)

The special section includes approximately 1.5 miles of stream opened in 1989 near Lacy Spring. Smith Creek flows through private farmland and requires a written landowner permit to fish. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked annually in the fall. Good numbers of 10-16-inch trout are available and fish over 4 pounds have been reported. In the fly-fishing only stream, only two trout over 16 inches can be creeled daily, and year-round fishing is allowed.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special area includes the posted section extending 3 miles downstream from Towne Creek near the town of Bassett. Smith River is Virginia's most noted trophy trout stream. The current state record 18 pound 11 ounce brown trout was taken in 1979 and numerous trout exceeding 10 pounds have been caught. Smith River is a large, flat, tailwater stream receiving coldwater discharges from Philpott Dam.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

In 1989, the Department initiated a new management program with establishment of Virginia's first "delayed harvest" trout fishery. This program incorporates aspects of both fish-for-fun and put-n-take trout fishing. Catchable sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1st through the following May 15th, only single hook artificial lures may be used and all fish must be returned unharmed. From May 16th through September 30th, general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. This management approach appears to have considerable potential to provide high quality fishing to a large number of fishermen.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area is one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Virginia Power who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove then right on Route 600 for six miles.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of Staunton City Reservoir.This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in North River is usually low during summer and fall months.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

Area Maps

Caution:

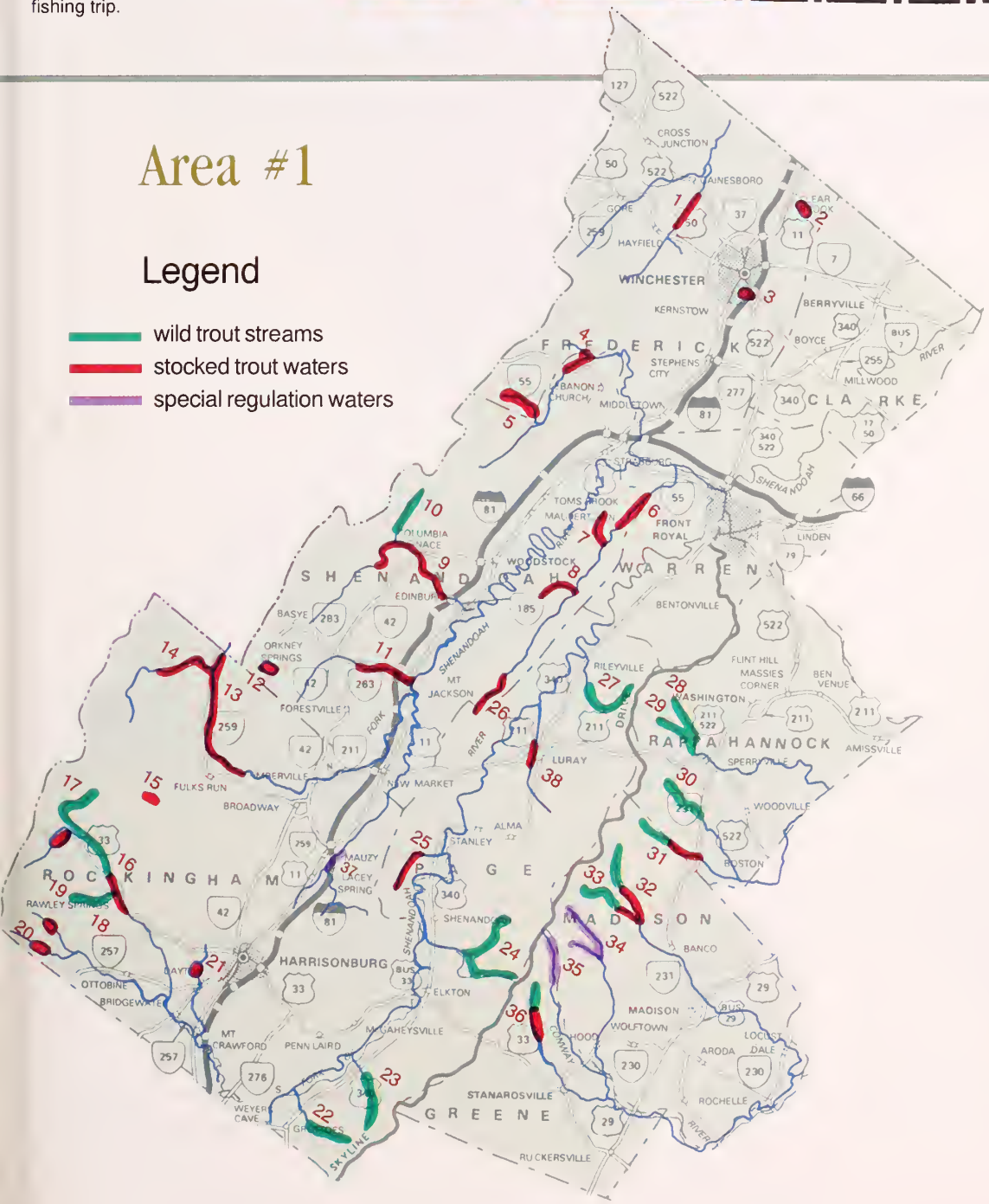
We have made an effort to include all quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.

Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Frederick County
(1) Hogue Creek
(2) Clearbrook Lake
(3) Winchester Lakes
(4) Cedar Creek
(5) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County
(6) Passage Creek
(7) Little Passage Creek
(8) Peters Mill Creek
(9) Big Stoney Creek
(10) Little Stoney Creek
(11) Mill Creek
(12) Tomahawk Pond

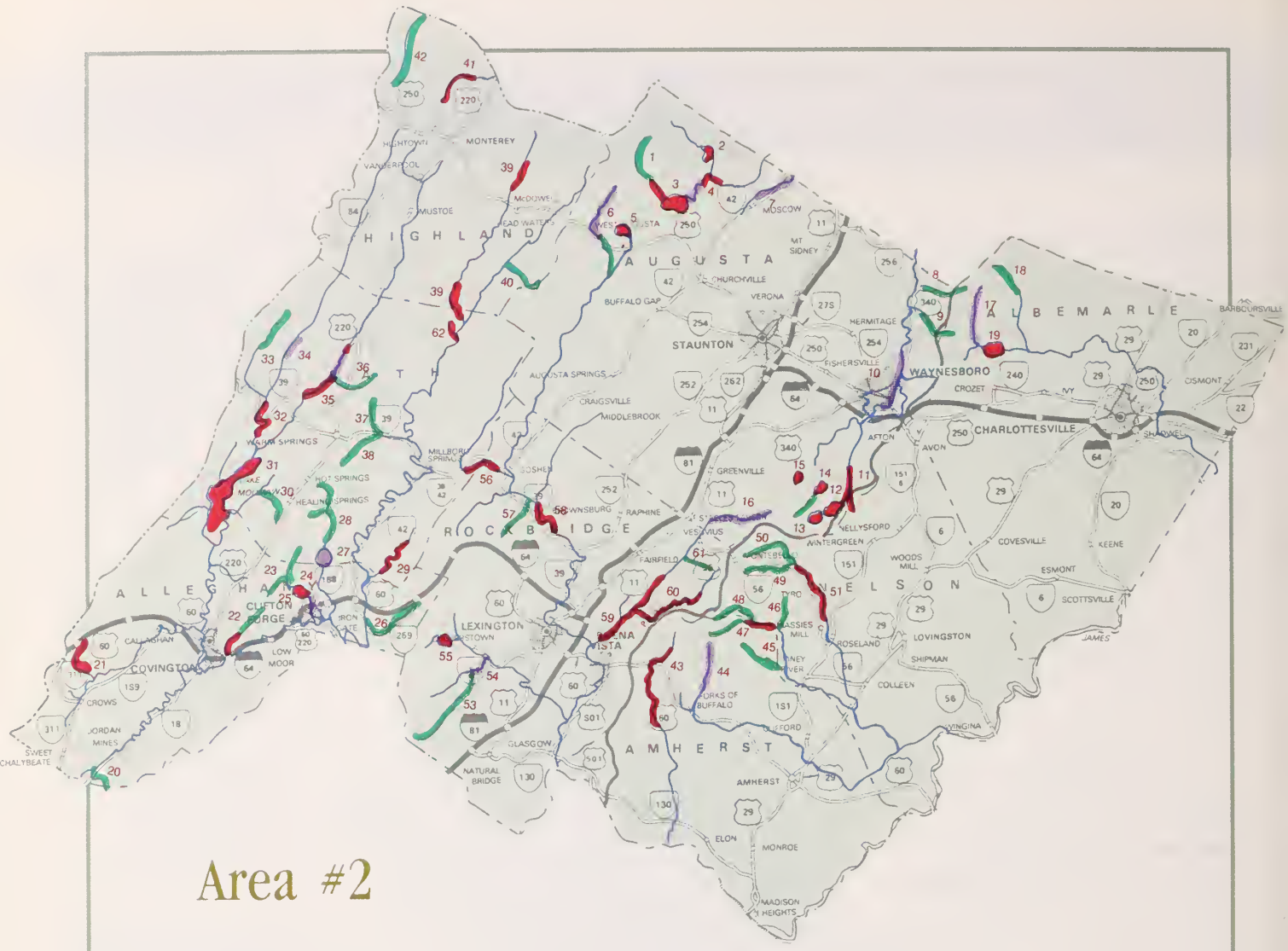
Rockingham County
(13) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
(14) German River
(15) Slate Lick Lake
(16) Dry River
(17) Switzer Lake
(18) Blacks Run
(19) Hone Quarry Lake
(20) Briery Branch Lake
(21) Silver Lake
(22) Madison Run (SNP)
(23) Big Run (SNP)
(37) Smith Creek

Page County
(24) Naked Creek (SNP)
(25) Cub Run
(26) Upper Passage Creek
(27) Jeremys Run (SNP)
(38) Hawksbill Creek

Rappahannock County
(28) Piney River (SNP)
(29) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
(30) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County
(31) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
(32) Robinson River (SNP)
(33) Rose River (SNP)
(34) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County
(35) Conway River
(36) South River



Area #2

Augusta County
(1) North River
(2) Hearthstone Lake
(3) Elkhorn Lake
(4) North River
(5) Braley Pond
(6) Ramseys Draft
(7) Mossy Creek
(8) Meadow Run (SNP)
(9) Paine Run (SNP)
(10) South River
(11) Back Creek
(12) Lower Sherando Lake
(13) Upper Sherando Lake
(14) Mills Creek Reservoir
(15) Coles Run Reservoir
(16) St. Marys River

Albemarle County
(17) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
(18) Doyles River (SNP)
(19) Sugar Hollow Reservoir

Allegheny County
(20) Shawvers Run
(21) Jerrys Run
(22) Pounding Mill Creek
(23) Smith Creek
(24) Clifton Forge Reservoir
(25) Smith Creek
(26) Simpson Creek

Bath County
(27) Douthat Lake
(28) Wilson Creek
(29) Pads Creek
(30) Cascades Creek
(31) Lake Moomaw
(32) Back Creek
(33) Little Back Creek
(34) Back Creek
(35) Jackson River
(36) Muddy Run
(37) Jordan Run
(38) Mares Run
(62) Spring Run

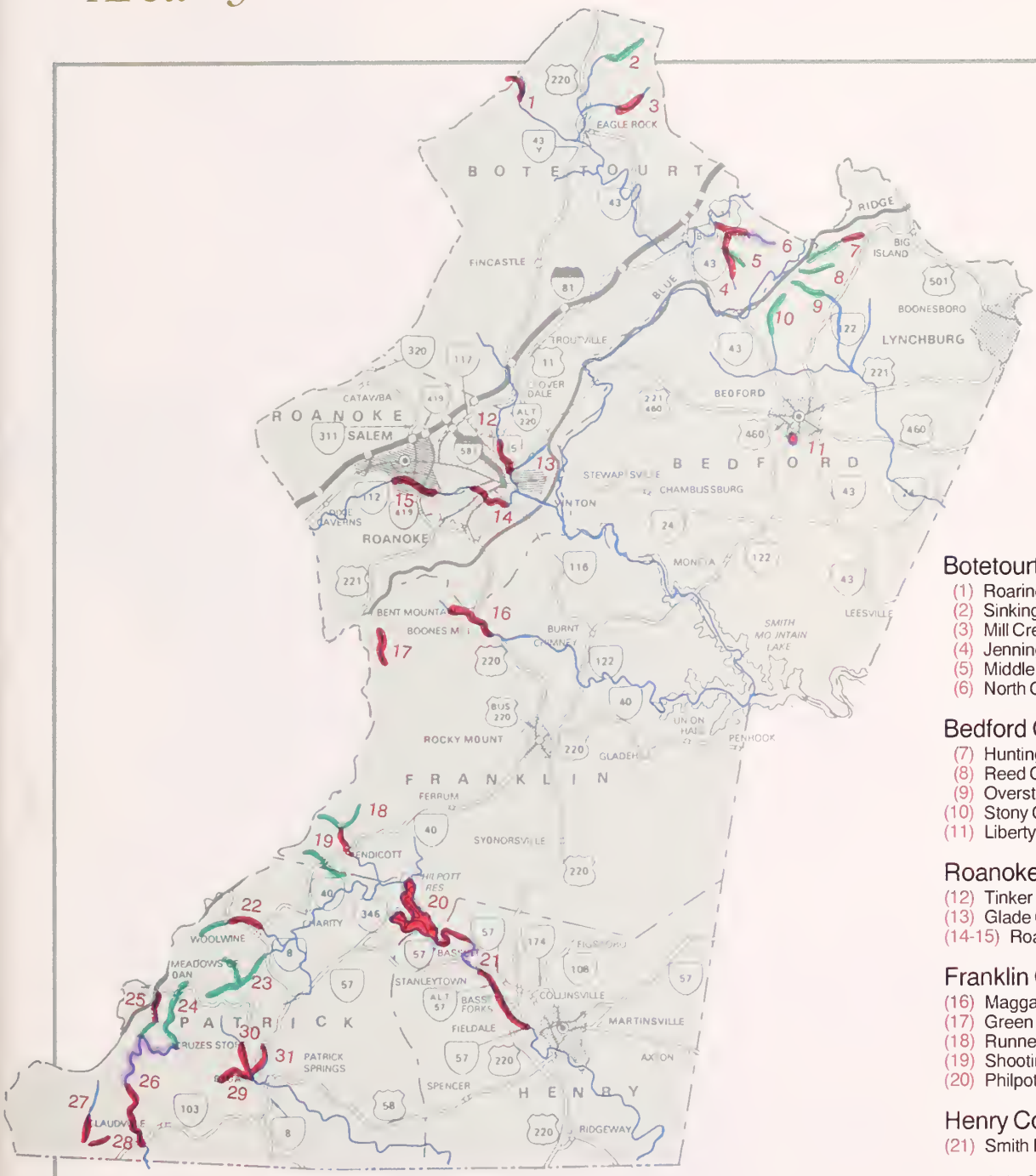
Highland County
(39) Bullpasture River
(40) Benson Run
(41) S. Fk. Potomac River
(42) Laurel Fork

Amherst County
(43) Pedlar River
(44) N. Fk. Buffalo River
(45) Little Piney River
(47) S. Fk. Piney River
(48) N. Fk. Piney River

Nelson County
(46) Shoe Creek
(49) S. Fk. Tye River
(50) N. Fk. Tye River
(51) Tye River

Rockbridge County
(53) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
(54) Buffalo Creek
(55) Lexington Reservoir
(56) Mill Creek
(57) Guys Run
(58) Maury River
(59) South River
(60) Irish Creek
(61) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Botetourt County
(1) Roaring Run
(2) Sinking Creek
(3) Mill Creek
(4) Jennings Creek
(5) Middle Creek
(6) North Creek

Bedford County
(7) Hunting Creek
(8) Reed Creek
(9) Overstreet Creek
(10) Stony Creek
(11) Liberty Lake

Roanoke County
(12) Tinker Creek
(13) Glade Creek
(14-15) Roanoke River

Franklin County
(16) Maggadee Creek
(17) Green Creek
(18) Runnett Bag Creek
(19) Shooting Creek
(20) Philpott Reservoir

Henry County
(21) Smith River

Patrick County
(22) Rock Castle Creek
(23) Smith River
(24) Dan River
(25) Round Meadow Creek
(26) Dan River
(27) Ararat River
(28) Clarks Creek
(29) S. Fk. Mayo River
(30) Poorhouse Creek
(31) N. Fk. Mayo River

Area #4

Craig County
(1) Potts Creek
(2) Barbours Creek
(3) Meadow Creek
(4) Sinking Creek

Giles County
(5) Big Stoney Creek
(6) Little Stoney Creek
(7) Johns Creek
(8) Mill Creek
(9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County
(10) Craig Creek
(11) Poverty Creek
(12) Toms Creek
(13) S. Fk. Roanoke River

Floyd County
(14) Goose Creek
(15) Little River
(16) W. Fk. Little River
(17) Howells Creek
(18) Mira Fork
(19) Indian Creek
(20) Burkes Fork
(21) Laurel Fork

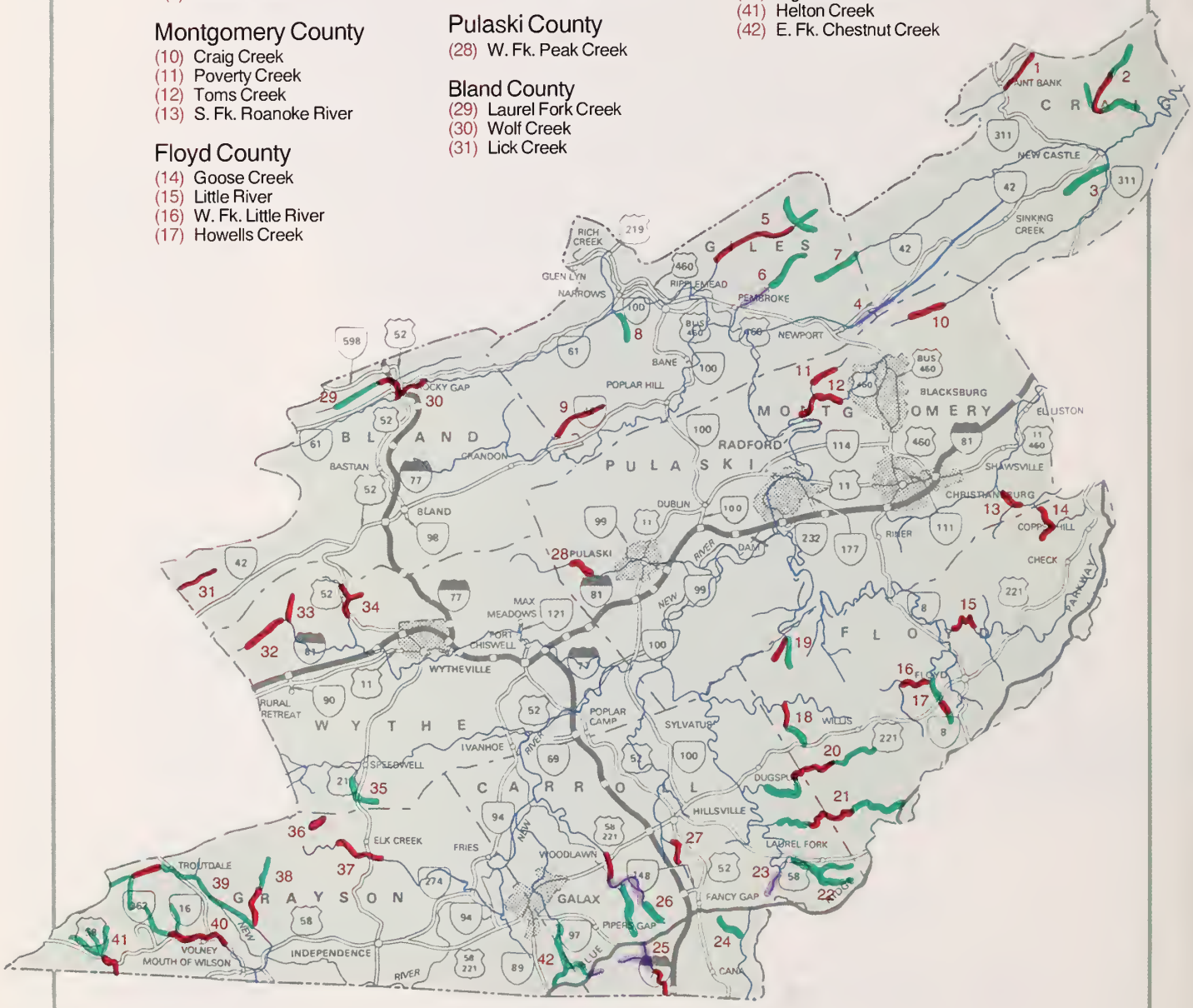
Carroll County
(22) Big Reed Island Creek
(23) Snake Creek
(24) Elk Spur Branch
(25) Stewarts Creek
(26) Crooked Creek
(27) Little Reed Island Creek

Pulaski County
(28) W. Fk. Peak Creek

Bland County
(29) Laurel Fork Creek
(30) Wolf Creek
(31) Lick Creek

Wythe County
(32) W. Fk. Reed Creek
(33) Guillon Fork
(34) Stoney Creek
(35) Dry Run

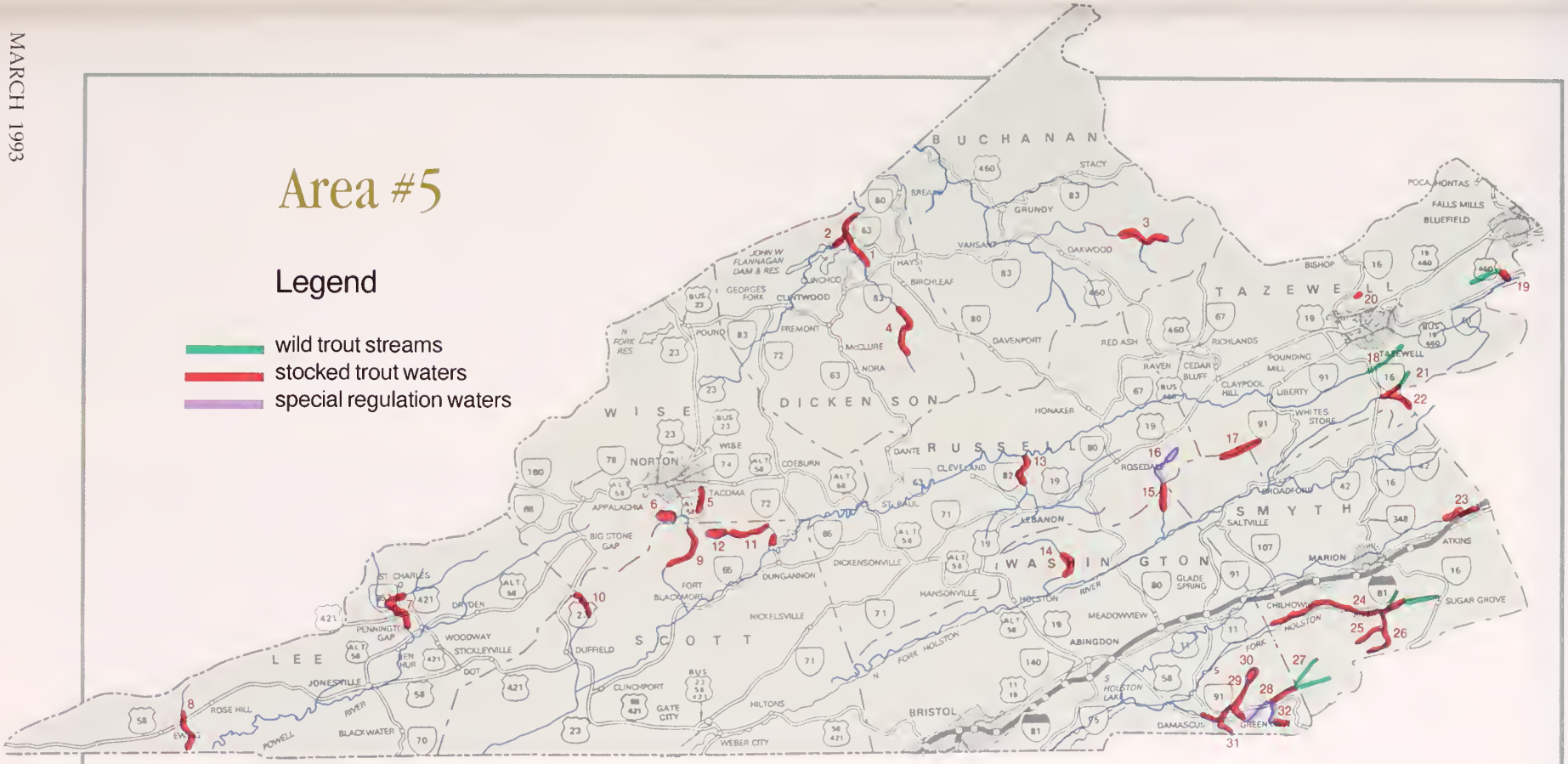
Grayson County
(36) Hales Lakes
(37) Elk Creek
(38) Middle Fox Creek
(39) Fox Creek
(40) Big Wilson Creek
(41) Helton Creek
(42) E. Fk. Chestnut Creek



Area #5

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



*Dickenson County
(1) Russell Fork
(2) Pound River
(4) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County
(3) Dismal River

Wise County
(5) Clear Creek
(6) High Knob Lake

Lee County
(7) N. Fk. Powell River
(8) Martins Creek

Scott County
(9) Big Stoney Creek
(10) Stock Creek
(11) Little Stoney Creek
(12) Bark Camp Lake

Russell County
(13) Big Cedar Creek
(16) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County
(14) Big Brumley Creek
(15) Big Tumbling Creek
(28) Whitetop Laurel
(29) Straight Branch
(30) Beartree Lake
(31) Tennessee Laurel
(32) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County
(17) Little Tumbling Creek
(18) Maiden Spring Creek
(19) Cove Creek
(20) Lake Witten
(21) Roaring Fork
(22) Laurel Creek

Smyth County
(23) Middle Fk. Holston River
(24) S. Fk. Holston River
(25) Hurricane Creek
(26) Comer Creek
(27) Little Laurel Creek

For more fisheries information, contact the VDGIF offices listed below:
Richmond—804/367-1000
Charlottesville—804/296-4731
Williamsburg—804/253-7072
Virginia Beach—804/424-6719 (answering machine)
Fredericksburg—703/899-4169
Staunton—703/332-9210
Vinton—703/857-7704
Marion—703/783-4860

VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

For Kids Only

Want to catch the first trout of your life? Well, the Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries once again invite all you kids 12 and under to join in the trout fishing fun Opening Day on the Rose River in Madison County.

We make sure that three-quarters of a mile of prime trout water is well-stocked for all 400 or more of you who will show up for this "kids only" event that was started 13 years ago by TU in an effort to give you a chance to catch a trout on Opening Day.

In addition, we make the stretch of the river "off limits" to adults for the whole day. Of course, you can get your adult friends to help you bait your line and carry the sandwiches for lunch down to the stream, but we don't let them fish any of your trout water.

So, get your folks up early on Saturday, March 20, because the fun starts at 9:00 a.m. Plus, landowner Jimmy Graves of Grave Mountain Lodge has graciously opened up his land which borders the stream for the day, which allows for ample parking and plenty of access to the stream. You don't need a license and you don't need a penny to fish, but you do need to bring your own tackle and bait.

Tell your parents that the stream is located along Route 670 between Criglersville and Syria. If they have any questions, they can call George Huber of the Rapidan Chapter of TU at (703) 923-4278 for more information. □

Zebra Mussel Alert

Zebra mussels are threatening Virginia's waters! An exotic species that has made its way over to the U.S. from Europe, this mussel is now seriously endangering native mussels and other aquatic life in the Great Lakes region. We *must* stop it from entering our own lakes and rivers.

You can help! Zebra mussels are easily transported on the hulls of boats or in live wells. If you are in an area infested with zebra mussels, be sure to thoroughly rinse your boat, trailer and boat parts and allow it all to completely dry. If you find a zebra mussel or a cluster of them, save a few in alcohol for our biologists, crush the rest and dispose of in trash. Please report all suspected sightings of zebra mussels to the Fisheries Division of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at 804/367-1000 or write to us for more information at: 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104

Beginning Freshwater Angler Packets Available

Make 1993 the year you introduce your family to the wonderful sport of freshwater fishing! To help you get your feet wet, the Aquatic Resource Education Section of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has produced a "Beginning Freshwater Angler Packet," a terrific bundle of information that will prove indispensable at home and on the water. The packet includes a pocket guide featuring step-by-step instruction in the fundamentals of fishing lakes and reservoirs, a 55-minute video on "Catching Panfish with Uncle Homer," a Virginia Fishing Guide, a copy of the current Virginia fishing regulations, a copy of the July 1992 issue of *Virginia Wildlife* which features an 18-page, full-color freshwater game fish identification guide, and an accompanying full-color freshwater fish of Virginia poster.

You can get started on your fishing adventure today by ordering the packet for $15 (make checks payable to: Treasurer of Virginia) from: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Attn: Anne Skalski, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. □

Black Bear Video Available

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has produced what VDGIF bear biologist Dennis Martin calls "most likely the best one-hour presentation of basic bear management and research available." *On the Trail of Pennsylvania Black Bear* was produced over a four-year period and is based on the research work of Pennsylvania's veteran bear biologist Dr. Gary Alt.

Says Martin, "Anyone interested in a detailed and professionally produced presentation of bear management, natural history and research would do well to obtain a copy of this entertaining and very informative video."

The video sells for $29.95. Make checks payable to: Pennsylvania Game Commission, and send to: Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dept. MS, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110. □

Good Books Just Published...

Anne B. Nock has recently published a rare and unusual book about the Eastern Shore of Virginia, entitled *Child of the Bay*. Featuring the history and heritage of the town of Onancock, Nock calls her 288-page book "an alive-and-in living-color portrait of everyday life in a waterside town." More than that, however *Child of the Bay* attempts to encapsulate the colorful history, natural heritage, and present-day concerns of the Eastern Shore of Virginia through her footnoted and indexed text, 170 color photographs, 100 black and white photos and 100 pen and ink sketches. With unconventional style, Nock's text uses short essays, limericks, and quotations to communicate her message and knowledge about historical buildings, schools, parks,

small-town life, occupations, natural wonders, and the people of the Eastern Shore.

To order a copy, send a check for $37.50 plus $5.19 to cover tax, postage and handling to: Anne B. Nock, P.O. Box 296, Onancock, VA 23417, or call 1-800-766-8009...

Birds of the Chesapeake Bay, Paintings by John W. Taylor with Natural Histories and Journal Notes by the Artist (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992) is a collection of 40 of Taylor's recent paintings reproduced in full color, including the Canada goose, osprey, snowy egret, and sora rail. Accompanying each painting by Taylor, who is one of the Bay's best-known wildlife artists, is an account of the bird's natural history, including details of its life in the Chesapeake region and how that life has changed because of increasing development or more energetic conservation efforts. This 96-page hardbound book is available for $34.95...

Not exactly *books*, the Nature Conservancy has produced with Houghton Mifflin Company (215 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003), a series of *Nature Cards* that provide a blend of facts and fun for young nature-lovers. Each package of 32 "postcards" covers either birds, tropical forests, frogs and toads, or lions, tigers, and bears. A full-color photo of each animal is featured on one side of the card, while the other offers concise, absorbing information—in text and drawings. Each package of 32 (6 7/8 X 3/4") cards sells for $8.95. Sounds like a fun way to learn your animals! □

A Mission to Save Open Space

A new nonprofit corporation has been organized to acquire key undeveloped properties in the Commonwealth in an effort to preserve open space for public use, including hunting and fishing. Disturbed by the rapid surburbanization of Virginia, particularly in Northern Virginia, the Virginia Alliance for Parks and Lands is concerned that open space in the state is becoming a premium, and that even those areas already protected (such as wildlife management areas) are in need of buffer areas to preserve their integrity and intended use.

Acquisitions will be dependent on Alliance funding and could range in size from a two-acre river access point to a thousand-acre natural area. Alliance lands may be conveyed to other nonprofit groups or government agencies, but they will be managed for active recreation by the general public. Initial Alliance efforts will focus on Virginia counties within the Potomac and Rappahannock River watersheds. They are intent on concentrating on areas beyond the urban fringe so that they may acquire open space ahead of development and before land prices escalate to unreachable levels.

If you would like more information on the Virginia Alliance for Parks and Lands, Inc., write to them at 210 Wolfe Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. □

Bird Dog Seminar—April 2, 3, 4

Delmar Smith is back! The legendary bird dog trainer from Oklahoma will present a two-day and three-night seminar on bird dog training on April 2, 3, and 4 at Oakland Shooting Preserve in Orange County. Sponsored by the Lahore Bird Dog Club, the seminar is the only one being offered in Virginia by Delmar this year, and is an intensive, hands-on course for gun dog owners, with participants working their own dogs under Delmar's supervision.

The course covers the basics of field training a bird dog, from yard training to bird work to field trialing. Participants will learn first-hand the techniques that have proven successful for the five-time winner of both the National Open and U.S. Open Brittany Championships, while being exposed to the gentle humor and wisdom of a trainer who is known to many as the "grandaddy of them all."

For information on fees and registration, contact Lahore Bird Dog Club, c/o Dave Pomfret, Box 1265, Orange, VA 22960. Phone: 703/ 854-4540. □

Hunters and Fishermen Foot the Bill

More than $242 million in excise taxes paid by America's hunters and anglers will be funneled back to state fish and wildlife agencies for land acquisition, habitat improvement, research, hunter education, boating safety education, and other conservation programs benefitting wildlife for fiscal year 1993.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), signed in 1937, and the Federal Aid in Sports Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act), signed in 1950, collectively have raised more than $2.2 billion for fish and wildlife conservation efforts in the U.S.

The funds are distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These funds, acquired through 10% or more federal excise taxes on sporting guns and ammunition, handguns and archery equipment, fishing equipment, a 3% tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders, and a portion of the Federal fuels tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats, are used to pay for up to 75% of the cost of each state project.

Virginia stands to receive over $4 million of these funds for 1993, which will be used in a three-to-one match with state funds received from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. □

Recipes

By Joan Cone

Spring And White Perch Run Together

Found in both salt and freshwater, white perch are delicious. Large perch are nearly a foot long and easy to fillet.

MENU

Squash and Apple Soup
Poached White Perch With Chive Sauce
Onion Roasted Potatoes
Ginger Carrots with Raisins
Hot Fudge Spooncake

Squash and Apple Soup

1 to 1-1/2 pounds acorn or butternut squash, halved and seeded
2 cups unsweetened apple juice
1 tart apple, peeled, cored and chopped
1 large russet potato, peeled and diced
1 small onion, chopped
1 can (14-1/2 ounces) low-salt chicken broth
1 cup lowfat milk
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Cook squash until tender. Cool and discard skin. Mash squash with fork. Place 2 cups squash in small bowl. (Reserve any remaining squash for another use.) Combine apple juice, apple, potato and onion in heavy large saucepan. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat until apple and potato are very tender, about 30 minutes. Add chicken broth and 2 cups squash. Bring mixture to simmer. Puree in processor or blender until smooth. Return mixture to saucepan. Thin to desired consistency with milk. Add nutmeg and season to taste with salt and pepper. Sprinkle chopped fresh parsley on soup. Makes 6 servings.

Poached White Perch With Chive Sauce

2 cups water
1 bay leaf
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1-1/2 pounds white perch fillets (2 to 3 ounces each), skin removed

Sauce:
1/3 cup margarine or butter
3 tablespoons snipped fresh chives
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper

In 10-inch skillet, combine water, bay leaf, 1/4 teaspoon salt and the lemon juice. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Add fillets. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, covered, for 3 to 5 minutes, or until fish is firm and opaque and just begins to flake. Drain and discard poaching liquid. Cover fish to keep warm and set aside.

In 8-inch skillet, melt margarine over medium heat. Add remaining sauce ingredients. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until mixture is hot, stirring constantly. Serve sauce over fish. Makes 4 servings.

Onion Roasted Potatoes

1 envelope Lipton Onion Recipe Soup Mix
2 pounds all-purpose potatoes, cut into large chunks
1/3 cup olive or vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. In large plastic bag, add all ingredients. Close bag and shake potatoes until all are evenly coated. Empty potatoes into shallow baking or roasting pan; discard bag. Bake, stirring occasionally, 40 minutes or until potatoes are tender and golden brown. Garnish, if desired, with chopped fresh parsley. Makes about 8 servings.

Ginger Carrots with Raisins

If fresh carrots are unavailable, select bagged carrots that are reasonably thin and moist-looking.

1 bunch fresh carrots, trimmed, peeled and cut into 1/3-inch thick slices (about 6 carrots)
2 tablespoons margarine or butter
1 teaspoon sugar
2 teaspoons chopped fresh ginger root
1 cup chicken broth
2 tablespoons golden raisins
Salt to taste

Place the carrots, margarine, sugar, ginger root and chicken broth in a saucepan. Simmer the carrots, covered, for 15 minutes. Stir in the raisins and cook, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer or until the carrots are cooked and the broth reduces to light glaze-like sauce. Season the carrots and serve. Makes 5 servings.

***Hot Fudge Spooncake (For Crockpot)**

1-3/4 cups packed light brown sugar, divided
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons nonalkalized cocoa powder, such as Hershey's
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1-3/4 cups hot water
Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Sift 1 cup of the brown sugar, the flour, the 3 tablespoons cocoa powder, the baking powder and salt together through a strainer into a medium bowl, rubbing the brown sugar through to remove any lumps. Whisk in the milk, melted butter and vanilla. Spread evenly over the bottom of a 3-1/2-quart slow cooker. Mix together the remaining 3/4 cup brown sugar and 1/4 cup cocoa powder. Sprinkle evenly over the top of the batter. Pour in the hot water, but do not stir. Cover and slow cook until a toothpick inserted l-inch deep into the center of the cake comes out clean, about 2 hours on high (300 degrees). Do not cook on low for a longer period of time. Spoon the warm pudding into individual bowls, served with scoops of vanilla ice cream if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

* Recipe from *Ready and Waiting*, 160 All-New Recipes to Make in the Slow Cooker, by Rick Rodgers, Hearst Books, 1992. □

Photo TipS

By Lynda Richardson

In Search of Ghosts and Groofwins

"Someone said they would be around here somewhere," I whispered pointing at the map. It was just after dawn and the sun began to filter chilled beams of light through the pines as we stopped our truck and killed the engine. Windows down, we scanned the pines with squinting eyes, noses reddened by the cold. We were searching for the ghosts of the forest.

Around us, the early morning woodland had already geared up for another winter day. A few birds called from distant trees and hundreds of migrating snow and Canada geese blew honks our way as they careened in for landings into the freshwater impoundments beyond. Otherwise, all was quiet, except for ...

"Did you hear that?" my companion turned to me, listening hard.

"It's just the wind in the trees...," I whispered, widening my eyes so I could hear better.

"No...listen to that! Chewing noises...There's got to be one around here somewhere!"

The color of swirling mists, our elusive quarry was difficult to spot against a white, winter sky or a fog-laden landscape. But as we scanned the area, a flash of gray caught my eye some distance from the truck. It moved in quick leaps and then vanished behind a large pine. Grabbing my binoculars, I focused on the base of the tree and as I watched, an eerie, glowing figure materialized from behind it. The large, fuzzy creature curled into a sitting position and pulled a pine cone to its lips.

"Ah...ah...Oh, my gosh. Oh, my gosh. There's one! Look how big it is," I gasped in choking attempts to whisper. Reaching for the camera mounted on the truck window frame, I looked through the viewfinder. "Dang, it's too far to get anything but habitat shots. That's O.K. I'll shoot some anyway. This could be our only chance!"

Unaware of all the excitement, the Delmarva fox squirrel sat calmly munching its pine cone. Despite its mysterious, protected status as a state and federally endangered species, it acted just like any old squirrel as it crawled, leaped, dug, and chewed its way closer and closer to our vehicle. As we watched, I recorded every movement, every turn of the head, changing roll after roll of film. But the crowning glory of the whole morning came when the lovely phantom of the forest moved right down in front of me to drink from the ditch beside the road.

The Groofwin (Ground-Roof-Window Pod) is a car window tripod. Attach the removable head from your regular tripod to it and you're ready to go; photo by Tim Wright.

Over the years, I've been able to photograph wildlife through the open window of a vehicle. To do this successfully, you need to be aware of several things. First, whenever approaching an animal close to the road, cut the engine and let the car roll into a position giving the animal some distance. This takes timing and practice as it seems the car will always stop short of the perfect position. Also, it's important to cut the engine, because vibrations, even when idling, can ruin the sharpness of your photographs. In addition, make sure any passengers in the car know they aren't supposed to breathe while you're taking pictures. I've found that more than one person in a car can cause quite a bit of movement...just enough to ruin your hard-earned photographs.

Another problem that may crop up is not having everything you need on hand for each shooting session. Nothing is more distracting than running out of film and realizing it's in your camera bag under two hundred pounds of junk in the farthest corner of the car. Always have plenty of film, a light meter, and extra camera body (loaded) within arm's reach.

Now that you're ready to start shooting, I'll bet you won't be surprised when I mention that car windows can be very uncomfortable to shoot from, especially when you're trying to work with a long lens. I've tried using rolled-up coats, pillows, and bank bags stuffed with dried beans or rice to cradle my lens. Using "bean bags," I could sometimes shoot pictures at a 15th of a second and have very sharp shots, but trying to follow-focus a moving subject was close to impossible.

Fortunately, a few years back, I came across a marvelous contraption that has since made life from car windows a dream. The Groofwin. *Gesundheit!* No, seriously, that's what its called. The Groofwin (Ground-Roof-Window Pod), sold through Leonard Rue Enterprises (Phone: 908/362-6616), is basically a car window tripod. All you do is attach the removable head from your regular tripod and you're ready to go! (If your tripod head doesn't come off, simply purchase one for the Groofwin.) With a smooth, tripod ball head, you can easily follow a flock of snow geese or a leaping whitetail in the comfort of your own car.

In your search for that truly great wildlife photograph, don't forget your vehicle and the Groofwin. In these chilly months, it could be the difference between getting out there and getting the shot of a lifetime, or sitting home and missing it. You never know when you might meet your own ghost of the forest. □

Safety

by Col. William Antozzi, Boating Safety Officer

That Sinking Feeling

Recently I stopped to put gasoline into my car. Afterward, when I tried to start the car, I turned the ignition key and nothing happened. The lights and horn worked and the battery terminals were clean. I had that sinking feeling that a person often experiences when things go wrong. Of course, help is usually as close as the nearest telephone.

When that same thing happens out on the water, the story is different. Help may be available from a passing boat or the vessel's VHF-FM radio may summon assistance from the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary or a commercial salvor.

Before calling for help, there are a few things which can be done to solve the problem. First, a check should be made to determine that the transmission is in neutral. Many engines will not start unless they are in neutral (which is a good safety feature).

Getting stuck out in the middle of a lake in the middle of the night without help is bound to give you a sinking feeling. But, before you call for help on your VHF-FM radio, try a few commonsense checks to your engine. You may find that you can get home without calling for help. Photo by Rob Simpson.

Next, the battery terminals should be clean and corrosion free. Checking them should be the next step. Also, try the horn, lights and electrical appliances to see if electricity is getting to them. If that is the case, look for loose wires or bad connections at the ignition switch, the starter motor and starter solenoid. Cleaning and tightening connections may correct the problem. The ignition switch itself may be the culprit. Lay a screwdriver across the terminals and if the starter motor attempts to turn, the problem has been located, and it is the switch.

If it is not the switch, rust or corrosion may have affected the starter solenoid's helical spring or the plunger which engages the starter motor and the engines. Sometimes sharply rapping the starter solenoid case will free the spring or plunger. The starter solenoid is grounded by the bolts which fasten it to the engine block. Make sure the bolts are tight.

Of course, the trouble could be the coil, condenser or distributor. If it is the coil or condenser, you can't fix them either, but if you have spares aboard, you can replace them.

If it is the distributor, you will recognize it by looking for a round housing with one wire to the center and wires going to each of the spark plugs. The center wire leads directly to the coil. Release the spring clips on either side of the distributor and remove the cap. (The small cylindrical object inside the cap is the condenser.) You will also find one or two sets of points which might need attention. If turning the ignition key causes the engine to turn over but it still doesn't start, look into the distributor and you will see the distributor shaft rotate, which will cause the points to open and close. If they don't, they may be stuck together and you will need to separate them and clean them with a knife edge or sandpaper. Make certain that the inside of the distributor cap is dry. The shiny contacts inside the cap and the top of the rotor and its flat surface must be clean.

Of course, you may be out of gasoline, due to a faulty gas gauge—but that's not your fault! □

Show How Much You Care...

Osprey; photo by Craig Koppie.

...Give To Virginia's Nongame and Endangered Species Fund

Many of Virginia's wildlife are in danger. Suffering from habitat loss and the dangers of pollution which threaten their survival, many species in the state are struggling to survive.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is responsible for the protection and conservation of all wildlife in Virginia, but we receive no state tax dollars, and we need your help to do our job. Help us fund critical research and management programs for the state's nongame and endangered species by contributing to our Nongame Wildlife Fund, which is supported by voluntary contributions made through our state tax checkoff program and direct giving.

This year, please make a donation on your state income tax form or simply send in your tax-deductible check (made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia) to: Virginia Nongame Wildlife Fund-VW, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

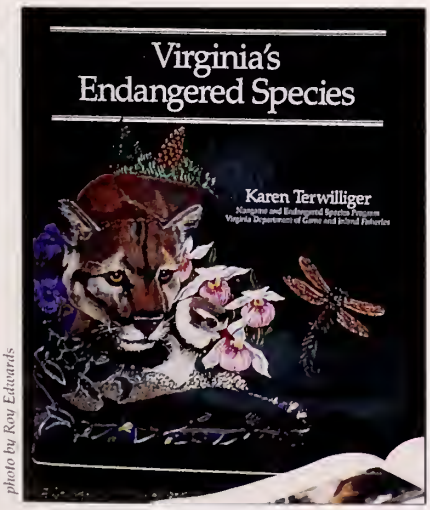


photo by Roy Edwards

Resource Guide Available On Virginia's Endangered Species

Order the only comprehensive resource guide on Virginia's Endangered Species for $32.94 (softcover) or $59.95 (hardcover). This 675-page guide identifies and describes more than 250 rare and endangered plants and animals in Virginia. Produced by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and other state natural resource agencies, this book documents the latest scientific information on Virginia's endangered species, information which is available in no other publication, *anywhere*.

Send your check plus 4.5 percent sales tax and $3.00 ship and handling charges to: McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, P.O. Box 10308, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0308. Phone: (703) 951-9465.

To order a Virginia's Endangered Species poster featuring the cover illustration on the book (*left*), please send a check for $8 (made payable to: Treasurer of Virginia) to: VA Endangered Species Poster Offer, Attn: Diane Davis, VDGIF, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Preserving in bronze what we're losing in the wild

An Endangered Species Series by Turner Sculpture

Capturing the essence of Virginia's endangered species in bronze, David Turner of Turner Sculpture has just completed the second in his limited edition series to raise funds for Virginia's Nongame and Endangered Species Program.

This time, David has turned his artist's eye toward one of Virginia's rarest mammals, the Northern flying squirrel. An elusive, elf-like spirit of our mountaintop spruce forests, this tiny squirrel weighs no more than five ounces and is known only to three locations in Virginia. Strictly nocturnal, it emerges from its nest of shredded bark, lichens, and moss once darkness has fallen and glides silently from tree to tree, its outstretched feet unfurling the parachute-like flaps of skin attached to each wrist and ankle.

Here, David Turner's 7" high sculpture of a Northern flying squirrel (photo approximates actual size) is poised for flight on an old-growth snag covered with the lichens and bracket fungus which make up a large part of its diet.

Like the bronze sculpture of the Bewick's wren also featured on this page (less than 100 are left for sale), a limited edition of 200 Northern flying squirrels will be cast and sold solely to benefit Virginia's Nongame and Endangered Species Program, the program responsible for the management and protection of all the Commonwealth's rare and endangered wildlife. The money raised from the sale of these two sculptures will provide the program with over1/10th of its present operating budget.

Each sculpture has a purchase price of $325. Turner Sculpture will receive $175 to cover their production costs, while the remaining $150 will be sent to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as your contribution to Virginia's Nongame and Endangered Species Fund. A tax advisor should be consulted regarding the personal tax deductibility of this contribution. Each piece sold will include a certificate of origin and a letter confirming your contribution to the future of Virginia's wildlife.

You may order either the Northern flying squirrel or the Bewick's wren by sending a $325 check for each signed and numbered sculpture to: Turner Sculpture, Box 128, Onley VA 23418. For credit card orders, call: 804/787-2818. **Note:** If you have already purchased a Bewick's wren and would like the same limited edition number in the Northern flying squirrel edition, please send in your order as soon as possible.

Bewick's wren (height: 12 inches) by David Turner. Available for $325.

TURNER SCULPTURE

VIRGINIANS CARE
Nongame Wildlife Fund